

Hindawi inspects education in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thawqat Hindawi paid an inspection visit to areas in the Karak region where he met with teachers and local directors of education to discuss education-related issues. He also inaugurated a number of projects in the region. At a meeting held at the Qasr district, Hindawi outlined the ministry's school building programmes to implementation of the 1987 national educational conference. He also tackled questions related to teachers' housing, administrative procedures in the appointment and transfer of teachers. At the outset of the meeting the minister heard a briefing on the educational situation in the Karak Governorate from the director of the Educational Department here. The minister opened a new building for the Al Qasr Secondary School for Girls and inaugurated an annual exhibition organised by schools from the district. The minister was accompanied on the tour by the Karak governor, local officials and senior Ministry of Education aides.

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Egyptians, Israelis discuss peace

GIZA, Egypt (AP) — Egyptians and Israelis, discussing their countries' relations after a decade of peace, agreed Monday that solving the Palestinian problem is the only way to foster true friendship between the former enemies. An Israeli cabinet minister and two Egyptians all major players in development of the peace treaty signed in 1979, urged the Jewish state to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a first step toward overall peace. "Let us make a difference between the two aspects of the programme. The first was peace between Egypt and Israel. The second was the solution of the Palestinian problem," said Butros Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs. "We have been successful in achieving the first. We have completely failed in achieving the second one." Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Ezer Weizman, speaking after taking part in a seminar said: "If I were Abu Ammar (Arafat), I would declare a ceasefire and I would tell the Israelis I am declaring a ceasefire for a limited period of time to test it." Weizman said. The seminar was organised by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khafiz also took part.

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Jordan marks Karameh anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday will observe the anniversary of Karameh Battle which took place in 1968 near the Karameh village in the Jordan Valley.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said in a statement that a major Israeli attack force crossed the River Jordan into the East Bank in a new aggression on the Arab Nation but the assault was transformed into a defeat for the enemy and victory for the Jordanian Armed Forces and people.

The Karameh battle of 1968, it said, helped the Arabs to overcome their setback in the 1967 war and breathed new spirit of steadfastness and a new hope for victory into the nation.

It said that the battle was described by His Majesty King Hussein as a turning point in the confrontation with the Israeli enemy and one in which the Armed Forces offered heavy sacrifices in defence of the Arab Nation.

The battle, Petra added, ended an era of despair that prevailed in the Arab World following the 1967 setback and proved that the Arabs were capable of confronting threats and dangers and dealing with invaders.

The Karameh battle site is normally visited by military and civilian officials who lay wreaths on the Monument of

the Unknown Soldier in tribute to the martyrs who fell in defence of the Arab soil.

Abu Taleb explains

On the eve of the Karameh Battle anniversary, Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb said that the battle was imposed on Jordan only nine months after the 1967 setback, and at a time when the Jordanian Armed Forces were making arrangements for reorganisation.

Abu Taleb said that despite the incomplete reorganisation process the Jordanian Armed Forces were able to repel the aggression which lasted a whole day.

The Israelis brought against Jordan an armoured division with air force support and artillery and launched a three-pronged attack on the Jordanian front.

"It was when the attacking force crossed the Jordan River that the Jordanian troops engaged them in a heroic struggle in defence of the motherland," Abu Taleb added.

He said the battle ended with great losses for Israel and an ignominious defeat for its forces which were compelled to withdraw under cover of darkness.

In his statement published by the Al Aqsa magazine, Abu Taleb said that the Israelis launched their aggression on Jordan because of its extremely



The Monument of the Unknown Soldier at the village of Karameh in the Jordan Valley

important strategic position.

"They had hoped to occupy the heights located on the eastern side in order to exert pressure on Jordan and the other countries of the eastern front," Abu Taleb said.

But he added the outcome of the battle came as a devastating blow to the Israeli military machine and ended the legend of Israeli invincibility.

Mubarak: Israel dragging its feet over Mideast peace

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Monday that Israel was dragging its feet over peace and contributing to the cycle of violence in the Middle East.

"It is obvious that its (Israel's) steps are still stumbling... its resort to violence can only breed more violence," Mubarak told parliament.

He was referring to Israel's attempts to curb a 15-month uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. More than 400 Palestinians have died in the revolt.

The Egyptian leader's televised address follows Egypt's celebration Sunday of the return of Taba, the last sliver of land occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

"We feel it is in Israel's interest to prepare itself for an international conference," Mubarak said in his 80-minute speech, broadcast live on Egyptian television. Mubarak's remarks added to

growing international pressure on Israel to agree to an international peace conference and talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The 58-year-old Egyptian became president in 1981 after the assassination of the late President Anwar Sadat and he has helped steer Egypt to the forefront of the Middle East peace process.

Egypt, the only Arab state to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, enjoys close ties with Washington.

Mubarak plans to visit the United States soon, and is expected to press his views directly to U.S. President George Bush.

Despite the treaty signed 10 years ago, all but three Arab states have restored relations with Cairo, and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is a frequent visitor to the Egyptian capital.

Mubarak urged Israel not to take fright at the prospect of an international peace conference.

"Choosing peace in the choice of reason."

He said the Arabs had already agreed on the need for a conference, adding that the PLO had made its contribution by renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist.

Mubarak said the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) has brought new hope to the Arabs as it is a constructive step towards coordinating pan-Arab efforts and serving national interests.

Mubarak said the four ACC countries — Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and North Yemen — have agreed to coordinate their efforts in agricultural and economic fields, so that they can together hold greater potential in confronting competition by other world economic groupings.

He said that the ACC is open for other Arab countries to join in and to participate in the common efforts to bolster the Arab nation's economy.



Hosni Mubarak

In Israel, a foreign ministry official said now that the Taba dispute was over, it was up to the Egyptians to work toward improved relations with Israel. "Israel has always been pursuing normalisation of relations with Egypt," he said. "The future of the relations depends more on the Egyptians than on us." "Now that this burden on our relations has been removed, we renew our old hope for more fruitful cooperation in other relatively unexploited fields."

Israeli air raid kills 15 in east Lebanon

RIYAK, Lebanon (R) — Israeli jets bombed two Palestinian bases in Syrian-controlled east Lebanon Monday, killing at least 15 fighters and civilians, Palestinian sources and witnesses said.

"We have been able to pull out at least 15 bodies. People are still trapped under the rubble," said Abu Ibrahim, an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"I believe that those who deserved to get it, got it," Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters in occupied Jerusalem after the raid, the fourth by Israel on Palestinian targets in Lebanon this year.

The raid followed a series of Palestinian attacks on the Jewish state last week. An Israeli soldier was killed in the latest attack.

The air raids in the Dalhameh

area, near the town of Riyak a few kilometres from the Syrian border and 55 kilometres east of Beirut, hit the house of a Lebanese family who were buried under the rubble, witnesses said.

The jets also hit two PFLP-GC buildings — a military vehicle repair workshop and a single-storey administration block — as well as a building of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Commandos searched for survivors under the rubble of the buildings. Palestinian sources said the 15 dead included civilians.

On Feb. 28, Israeli jets raided a DFLP position in mountains

south east of Beirut, killing two fighters and wounding 23 children at a nearby school.

Palestinian fighters have over the past two months launched at least five attempts to infiltrate Israel from South Lebanon.

The commandos, from radical groups opposed to a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, have all been stopped in the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone" inside southern Lebanon.

The attacks have fuelled Israeli demands that the United States break off its dialogue with the PLO, which began last December when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist.

President Bush's administration has expressed concern at the raids but made no move to halt its contacts with the PLO, which says attacks on Israeli military targets are not affected by its renunciation of terrorism.

Arafat: Israeli attacks could lead to full-scale offensive

BAGHDAD (AP) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Monday blamed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for escalating violence in the occupied territories and warned that Israeli attacks in South Lebanon could develop into a full-scale offensive.

Arafat told a news conference the Israeli government has decided on harsher measures to halt the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said Shamir had initiated a two-pronged plan to quell the uprising by "escalating oppressive measures and intensifying the iron fist policies against our people, while... offering some new ideas on a settlement to the conflict... aimed at distracting world opinion from the uprising."

Seven Palestinians were killed in weekend clashes with Israeli soldiers bringing the overall death toll to 403 Arabs.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said that the Israelis may also launch pre-emptive attacks against Palestinian positions in South Lebanon.

"They (the Israelis) are in deep crisis and they think that an aggression in South Lebanon will help them to get out of their bottleneck," he said, speaking in Arabic.

Arafat said that Israeli attacks could develop into a large scale offensive by early summer in

South Lebanon where "they can start any aggression against the Arab countries without waiting for any green light from their Western allies."

Since 1985, Israel has maintained a self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon in order to prevent Palestinian fighters from staging cross-border attacks against northern Israel.

Arafat also denied reports that the United States has asked the PLO to halt military operations against Israel as a condition for continuing a dialogue opened last December.

"Nobody has the right to ask us to give promises or make pledges on how to defend our rights," he said.

Arafat said the PLO has the right for "all kinds of struggle" against Israel, but indicated that recent attacks were staged by rival Palestinian factions to embarrass him and upset the United States-PLO dialogue.

He said that PLO officials holding talks next Wednesday in Tunis with U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pellerreau would ask for active American involvement in efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference.

"Our priority in the next round (of dialogue) will be escalating moves to convene the international conference," he said.

Arafat also reiterated backing for a proposal made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during a Middle East swing last month that an Arab committee should be formed to help prepare such a conference.

Arafat said that Western European countries have told the PLO they will present their own initiative for a Middle East settlement after U.S. President George Bush formulates his policy for the region.

"We are waiting for their initiative in order to discuss it," he said.

He said that chances for Middle East peace had improved, while "the Palestinian state has now moved from the world political map into its geographical map... and it's only a matter of time before it materialises."

Arafat said that discussions would be held soon in Baghdad, the military headquarters of the PLO, on setting up a provisional government for the symbolic Palestinian state.

He said the only reason for postponing the decision had been fears that Palestinians from the occupied territories who are named to the interim government would be expelled by the Israelis.

"We need guarantees that Israel will not expel them when we appoint them as members in the government," he said.

Israeli aide urges talks with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin, speaking after security forces killed seven Palestinians in bitter fighting, called Monday for talks with the banned PLO even if Israel's coalition government fell as a result.

"The one who has come to get up and say the partner is the PLO if it will cease violence," Yossi Beilin, a top aide of Labour Party chief Shimon Peres, said on Israeli Radio.

"We must tell ourselves and the world that today there is no one else. We must set up conditions, the PLO must meet those conditions and then we will meet them," he said.

He said Labour should pursue contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation without the right-wing Likud Party, its coalition partner, even if the contacts brought down the government.

Criticising the right-wing Likud Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Labour's coalition partner, for its rejection of PLO peace initiatives, Beilin said: "It is time to say, 'friends, the emperor has no clothes'... Those who talk of a political process together (with Likud) in essence is talking about political paralysis."

He denied he was speaking on behalf of Peres, who is finance minister and deputy prime minister.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of Shamir's office, called Beilin's remarks unfortunate.

Labour's Minister Without Portfolio Ezer Weizman Sunday also called for negotiations with the PLO.

The government bans contact with the PLO, which it regards as a terrorist group. PLO Chief Yasser Arafat in December recognised Israel's right to exist and said he renounced terrorism.

In an interview in the Jerusalem Post, Shamir said the purpose of his conference, called by him, was to show support for the government, and urged those attending to "restrain their expressions of opposition."

Intelligence: Shamir has to talk to PLO

A secret report from the intelligence services to the Israeli cabinet says Israel has no alternative to negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Israel Radio said Monday.

The conclusions of the annual national intelligence estimate were leaked to several Israeli newspapers as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tried to rally world Jewish leaders in occupied Jerusalem behind his refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

Right-wing Parliamentarian Michael Eitan accused aides to dovish Vice-Premier Shimon Peres of leaking the report, which he said was compiled by the head of military intelligence, Major-General Amnon Shahak.

The study says a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue indefinitely if Israel does not take a substantive step towards negotiations with the PLO, according to the newspapers.

It also says there is no serious leadership in the occupied territories independent of the PLO.



Yossi Beilin

Political sources said the report, representing a consensus of the Mossad overseas espionage agency, the Shin Bet internal security, service and military intelligence, was submitted to the 12-man inner cabinet last Wednesday.

The newspapers also quoted the study as saying the PLO had truly begun to change towards political realism, contradicting Shamir's assertion that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism were not genuine.

The report also warns that if peace efforts break down, the four states which recently formed an Arab Cooperation Council — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — could form a threatening "eastern front" against Israel.

Shamir told a conference called to demonstrate world Jewish solidarity with Israel: "We are opposed to negotiations with the PLO because it will inevitably lead to a demand for a (Palestinian) state west of the Jordan River."

Al Hussein congratulates Mubarak on Taba return

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, to congratulate him on the return of Taba in Sinai to Egypt and for raising the Egyptian flag on the Arab territory.

Lebanon shelling spreads to 40 towns

BEIRUT (R) — Sectarian artillery battles spread Monday from Beirut to about 40 outlying towns.

Security and hospital sources said at least three people were killed and 30 wounded by shelling which rocked mountain towns and coastal neighbourhoods spreading panic among civilians.

The shelling in and around Beirut between Druze fighters and mainly Falangist troops of Major General Michel Aoun was the most intense since last Tuesday, when 43 people were killed and 150 wounded, most of them civilians.

Security sources and Red Cross workers said the ferocity of the shelling made an accurate casualty figure impossible to obtain. But they said two people were known to have been killed in Beirut and one in the mountains, and predicted the casualty toll would rise.

As the barrage spread, it hit areas which had been spared civil war violence for more than five years.

Security sources said nine men were killed and five people were wounded when shells hit Karameh Street in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs.

The army-run radio said Syrian gunners pounded the residential areas of Baabda, where the presidential palace is located, and pine forests around Bkriki, the seat of the Maronite Church.

It said an army barracks in Sarba was hit as well as a police station in Warwar.

Monday's shelling again struck residential areas in east and west Beirut's suburbs, the airport road controlled by Syrian troops in the western sector and the official port.

Shells hit the Khaldeh junction, south of Beirut, which is a main supply route for Syrian troops deployed in west Beirut and swept mountain and coastal areas over 150 square kilometres.

The airport has been closed since a struggle over the country's sea and air outlets erupted last week between Aoun, who commands 15,000 mainly Falangist troops, and opposition militias.

An army statement said gunners fired in retaliation at Syrian forces in the mountains who they said shelled Falangist-held areas.

The shelling of artillery areas could be heard across Beirut as Kuwaiti's ambassador in Damascus, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassim, held talks with Sunni Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss who heads a civilian government vying for power against Aoun's military cabinet.

Jassim arrived from Damascus for talks with rival leaders about Arab League efforts to solve Lebanon's constitutional crisis following last September's failed presidential elections.

The Kuwaiti envoy told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Hoss that he was carrying invitations to seven former presidents and prime ministers to meet a special Arab League peace committee in Tunis later this month.

Jassim, who later expected to see Aoun, said he would also mediate to ease tension in Lebanon and discuss the fighting sparked by Aoun's blockade of illegal ports, the main source of income for the militias.

Druze security sources said the artillery barrages closed the main highway linking Beirut to Damascus.

Radio stations on both sides of the capital's "green line" urged people to stay indoors and broadcast martial songs.

OICC salutes Palestinians under occupation

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference by the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) Monday saluted the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and voiced the Islamic World's absolute support for Palestinian efforts to regain their rights and homeland.

A statement issued at the conclusion of the sessions also condemned Israel's inhuman practices against the Palestinian people, its demolition of Arab homes, detention of youths and displacement of Palestinian families.

It also denounced as barbaric Israel's continued actions designed to obliterate Arab and Islamic characters from Palestinian cities and its desecration of holy lands.

The statement was issued at the final session which was chaired by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and which issued the conference's resolutions and recommendations.

According to the statement the conference endorsed the organisation's final accounts and the budgets for the previous two years and adopted budgets for the coming two years.

It also amended a number of laws contained in the organisation's charter, opening the way for eight rather than four cities from each Islamic country to join the organisation.

The conference paid tribute to Jordan, Egypt and Kuwait for honouring their commitments to help the organisation set up its



Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Monday receives the OICC shield from the organisation's Secretary-General Abdul Qader

Koshak at the end of the OICC conference (Petra photo)

headquarters, according to the statement.

The delegates, the statement said, re-elected Abdul Qader Koshak as the OICC secretary-general for a third term of four years and announced that the next conference will be held in

Rabat, in March 1991.

Towards the end of the meeting, Rawabdeh distributed token gifts and the OICC shields to a number of Islamic cities including Amman.

Following the meetings the participants toured a number of

places of interest in the capital including Amra Garden, Abdoun district, Saqq Al Sail, Al Hashimeh Plaza and the Al Nasr Garden.

They also visited the archaeological city of Jerash in northern Jordan.

Baker close to deciding on special ambassador to Afghan Mujahedeen

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III appears close to making a decision on sending a special ambassador to the U.S.-backed rebels fighting the Soviet-supported regime in Afghanistan, administration officials say.

The move is aimed at broadening U.S. influence among the long-feuding Afghan rebel factions, the officials said over the weekend.

A White House official said the envoy's role could be seen as attempting to limit Pakistan's influence among the Afghan rebels. Under Baker, the matter "under consideration" and that he "may be close to a decision point."

The official, who spoke on condition his name not be used, said the proposal "is still on Baker's desk" and has not yet reached President George Bush. A State Department official, who also spoke privately, said the proposal has been "under consid-

eration for a long time," but said he was uncertain of the timing of the decision or its possible announcement.

The first official emphasised that the move would not imply U.S. recognition of any interim government established by the rebels, also known as Mujahedeen.

Civil war has ravaged Afghanistan for more than 11 years and divisions among the rebel units could prolong the fighting. The seven main rebel groups are members of an alliance based in Pakistan, but have been deeply divided as their leaders struggle for power.

The Soviets, who entered Afghanistan in 1979, withdrew in

February under an agreement mediated by the United States.

Last week the Soviets renewed arms shipments to the Communist regime in Kabul, saying they will continue to supply equipment to President Najibullah's troops as long as Pakistan and the United States supply the guerrillas.

Last year, Republican Sen. Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire, pushed a law through Congress that required the appointment of a special ambassador.

On Friday, senators renewed the call for the appointment in a resolution.

The resolution, which was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also said the United States should not cut the amount of military equipment it gives the Afghan guerrillas until it is "absolutely clear" that the Soviet Union has ended assistance to its proxies.



A Sudanese boy in a refugee camp on the Sudan-Uganda border.

Sudanese refugees starving in Uganda

ADJUMANI, Uganda (R) — More than 20,000 Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda are running short of food because poor security on the roads has delayed the arrival of a relief convoy.

"There is no food. People are starving," said Venusto Ogido, the chairman of Arinyapi Refugee Camp in northwestern Uganda, where 17,000 victims of Sudan's civil war have gathered over the past two weeks.

Most are from Nimule, a border town which fell to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) March 3.

The refugees are huddled in makeshift grass shelters along the banks of a stream, 16 kilometres inside Uganda, surrounded by the few belongings they managed to salvage.

"When it rains, we really suffer a lot," Ogido told a party of visiting journalists.

A convoy of trucks with 400 tonnes of food is on its way to the refugee camps near Adjumani, but it has been delayed by poor security on the road from Gulu, 120 kilometres to the south.

A religiously inspired Ugandan rebel group, the Holy Spirit Movement, still raids villages and attacks traffic on the roads around Gulu and the food convoy, organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was due to receive a military escort for the final leg of its journey.

But UNHCR's field officer in Adjumani, Jean Michel Goudstikker, said he was confident the situation was under control: "The food here is a problem, but it is not yet critical. I have 400 tonnes on the way. If it does not come today it will come tomorrow."

More than 30,000 refugees have fled into northern Uganda since October to escape fighting between Sudanese government troops and the SPLA, seeking to end what it sees as domination of Sudan's Christian and animist south by the Muslim north.

Situation may worsen Relief workers fear thousands

more refugees could flood in if the SPLA continued its recent string of military victories.

UNHCR was able to fly some food stocks into refugee camps over the last month but has failed to distribute supplies regularly since March 11.

Relief workers say there is not much disease or malnutrition in the camp yet but warn the situation will worsen if food and water problems continue.

Already, diarrhoea is on the rise at Arinyapi, where residents bathe in the same stream water they use for drinking.

The UNHCR and Ugandan government plan to settle the incoming refugees on the fertile rolling plains around Adjumani where they will eventually be able to grow their own food.

Some 3,000 refugees have already been airlifted from Kitgum in northern Uganda and 7,000 more who arrived there recently are due to follow.

Several thousand, more, who entered Uganda on the west bank of the Nile, are gradually being brought to Adjumani by ferry and truck.

The arrival of new refugees has slowed to a trickle over the past week, but UNHCR fears continued victories by the SPLA in southern Sudan could push thousands more across the border.

Radio SPLA has already warned the civilian population of Kaya, on the Ugandan frontier, to evacuate their homes in anticipation of a rebel attack.

Relief workers say the besieged town of Yei, 80 kilometres further north, could follow soon after. Many of its 90,000 hungry residents have already started leaving the town because food supplies there are virtually exhausted.

The Sudanese refugees are being received with sympathy by the people of northwest Uganda. Many of these were until recently themselves refugees in southern Sudan, where they fled in 1979 to escape a rebel army which overthrew dictator Idi Amin.

Ethiopia's TPLF begin rebuilding capital

MEKELE, Ethiopia (R) — Rebel soldiers who overran the provincial capital Mekele face the daunting task of reviving a city with no power, no money, limited food and water and hit by a meningitis epidemic.

The Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF), fighting since 1975 to overthrow the government in Addis Ababa, captured Mekele on Feb. 27 and secured control over virtually all of the northern province of Tigray.

Rebel officials in Mekele declined to speculate on when or whether the government, battered both by the TPLF and rebels in the coastal province of Eritrea, will launch a counter-offensive.

But they said they were planning to reopen schools and other institutions.

As government troops withdrew from the city, they turned tank and artillery fire on to its power plant, damaging it beyond repair.

Rebel forces have not yet been able to restore the city's electricity supply but are rigging pumps and fixing pipes to get water supplies flowing again.

Residents said Ethiopian troops fled in panic once the government-ordered withdrawal started and blew up the town's ammunition depot as they went. "The smoke blacked out the sun, the explosions continued for 36 hours," said a hotel-keeper.

Food supplies must come by truck convoy over mountain roads from support bases several days' journey away.

In Mekele's hospital, TPLF medics are trying to cope with an outbreak of meningitis, a viral infection of brain membranes which can kill in 18 hours, as well as dozens of injuries from the ammunition dump explosion.

8 receive King Faisal Award

RIYADH (AP) — Crown Prince Abdullah distributed this year's King Faisal Awards to eight winners, including four Westerners, at a ceremony late Sunday.

The prestigious awards, which had been announced earlier, are distributed annually to honour excellence in the fields of science, medicine, Arabic literature, Islamic studies and service to Islam. This year's winners included two Americans, a German, a Briton, two Egyptians, an Iraqi and a Syrian.

Luigi Mastroianni, an American, shared the prize in medicine with Briton Robert Geoffrey Edwards.

Mastroianni, whose specialty is infertility, is professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, and director of the division of human reproduction at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Edwards, a professor of human reproduction at the University of Cambridge, was one of the doctors who assisted in the successful birth of the world's first test-tube baby in 1970.

Professor Ahmed H. Zewail, an Egyptian-born American of the California Institute of Technology, won the award for his pioneering research in the field of spectroscopy and his contribution toward the realisation of laser-driven chemical reactions. He shared the prize with Dr. Theodore W. Hansch, a professor of physics at the University of Munich, West Germany, for his work in laser physics.

The prize for Islamic education achievement went to 72-year-old Egyptian exponent of the Islamic faith, Mohammad Al Ghazalli, native of a Nile delta village.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Jews fined for aiding Palestinians

JERUSALEM (R) — A tiny Jewish sect opposed to Israeli statehood said Sunday it would pay a fine for illegally handling \$3,000 which it gave to a Palestinian hospital. Attorney Naftali Werzberger said the Bank of Israel imposed the fine of \$750 on Jerusalem's ultra-religious Neturei Karta sect, which regards the creation of a Jewish state before the coming of the Messiah as a sin. The group gave \$3,000 last summer to help Mokkassed hospital in Jerusalem to care for Palestinians wounded in the uprising against Israeli rule, now in its 16th month. Members of parliament called for an investigation after news photos showed Rabbi Moshe Hirsch of the group visiting the Palestinian hospital wearing the big black cap and long black coat of an ultra-religious Jew. The money was received from abroad and passed on in dollars. Werzberger said regulations against holding foreign currency are not normally applied to non-commercial organisations. "If the contribution was to the Jerusalem Foundation or to the Labour Party or Likud, I don't think anyone would make an issue of it," he told Reuters.

Iran: OIC decision defeat for U.K.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Commentators of Iran's state-run press said Saturday that the decision by the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) a victory for Iran over Britain and the West. "Following the decisive stance taken by the Islamic countries with regard to the book, its author and publishers, this matter will make the British government more embarrassed than ever, and will push it into a weak and defensive position from the political and propaganda standpoint," Tehran Radio said in its commentary. In the 18th meeting of the OIC, which ended Thursday in Riyadh, the organisation's 145 members declared Salman Rushdie, author of the Satanic Verses an apostate. Iran severed ties with Britain earlier this month over what it saw as London's role for protecting Rushdie and leading the European Community recalled their ambassadors from Tehran to protest Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's execution order against Rushdie for defaming Islam in his book.

Mulroney denies Clark rift over PLO

OTTAWA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney denied Thursday that there is a rift between himself and External Affairs Minister Joe Clark. Mulroney insisted he and Clark are not at odds over Canada's position towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). After a cabinet meeting Thursday, Mulroney denied that he said it was too early to upgrade relations with the PLO. "I have not said that... There is no inconsistency at all between Clark's position and mine," Mulroney said. "Mr. Clark and I are in full agreement on that and all areas of foreign policy." Mulroney said Clark has yet to submit a recommendation to cabinet on Middle East policy. "As soon as we have it, we will make a decision."

Prince Charles ends Gulf tour

NICOSIA (R) — Britain's Prince Charles flew home Sunday night from a four-nation tour of the Gulf during which he faced a security scare in Dubai. The Saudi Press Agency, received in Nicosia, said in an overnight report that the prince left Saudi Arabia after a three-day private visit that included talks with King Fahd. On the advice of the British government, the prince decided not to play in a polo match in Dubai, which has a large community of Iranians. He visited amid a row between Britain and Iran over British novelist Salman Rushdie, whom Iran has said should be killed for blasphemy. Prince Charles and his wife Lady Diana, who left for home from Dubai, began their tour in Kuwait and then visited Bahrain.

Police, orthodox Jews clash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli police threw tear gas bombs to disperse ultra-orthodox protesters at the Wailing Wall Monday after the black-garbed Jews threw chairs at women praying at the Jewish shrine, witnesses said. A group of ultra-orthodox Hasidic men tried to block some 50 women of the more lenient Jewish Reform Movement who came to pray at the wall on the eve of the Purim holiday. Ultra-orthodox Jews oppose women adherents of reform conducting prayers traditionally done only by men. They sparked a fight several months ago after women carrying Torah scrolls tried to pray at the wall. Fistfights broke out between police and the men, in long black coats and traditional sidecurls, when guards forced the men to allow the women through and kept the men behind steel barriers. Police threw tear gas after a woman was lightly injured when one man threw a chair over the male-female partition at the women worshippers, photographer Brian Hender told Reuters. "The place was covered in gas," Hender said. "Some of the women were overcome by the tear gas and were crying. The police started threatening the men and told them to get lost." The women finished praying near Dung Gate, some 500 metres from the wall.

Mossad head retires

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The head of Israel's Mossad secret service retired Sunday, ending a six-year career amid controversy and criticism, Israel Radio said. The radio identified the secret service chief publicly for the first time as Nahum Admoni. His name was banned from publication while in the post and his successor's identity in an official secret. In a brief ceremony, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin thanked Admoni and praised his work during six years as the spy agency chief, the radio said. Admoni came under unprecedented public criticism after the high court allowed publication of an article questioning his competence and describing intelligence blunders during his term. The article denounced the Mossad's role in the U.S. Iran-contra debacle and a spy scandal in which an American naval analyst passed secrets to Israel. The article published last month also blamed the Mossad head for the expulsion of Mossad agents from Britain last year. The prime minister's office has said his retirement is not connected to the publication of the article. The radio said Admoni had worked for the secret service almost continuously since Israel's establishment in 1948.

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JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

17:51 Maghreb
19:08 'Isha

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:00 Educational programme
17:30 Religious programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:20 Programme on children
19:18 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweileh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 824590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
Do in Sale Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775361.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 825605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 818317, 821364

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Années d'Illusion
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
20:30 Hit Squad
21:10 Tales from the Hollywood Films
22:00 News in English
22:20 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

04:18 Fajr
05:35 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:43 Dhuhr
15:10 'Asr

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair with expected rise in temperature and northwesterly moder-

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

sic wind. In Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 7 / 20
Aqaba 13 / 27
Desert 5 / 21
Jordan Valley 12 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Walid Smadi 683266
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Fakher Baladi 625778
Fine pharmacy 718336
Ferdous pharmacy 677055
Al Asema pharmacy 623672
Nairookh pharmacy 636730
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 637660
Stuness pharmacy 637660

IRBDO:

Dr. Ahmed Al Naqouri (—)
Al Shura'a' pharmacy (985328)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rafeq Atallah 994424
Jordan Electricity Authority 815613
Khalifeh pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 637777
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62309093
Blood Bank 73121
Highway Police 854302
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 606800
Price Complaints 667878
Police and Severage 897467
Police Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815613
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkieh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Broad beans 643362
Jabal Amman Maternity 636140
Malbus, J. Amman 664171
Palestine, Shunessani 669131
Shunessani Hospital 645845
University Hospital 667272
Al-Muasher Hospital 66612/37
The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37
Al-Ahl, Abdali 66612/37
Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511/26
Army, Marja 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 350
Banana (Mukammarr) 300 / 250
Broad beans 150 / 100
Cabbage 130 / 100
Carrots 230 / 180
Cauliflower 130 / 100
Cucumbers 400 / 320
Eggplant 240 / 200
Garlic 250 / 220
Lemon 100 / 360
Lettuce (per head) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 250 / 200
Marrow (small) 380 / 320
Orange (Shammouth) 400 / 350
Orange (local) 350 / 300
Onion (dry) 250 / 200
Onion (green) 140 / 100

Peas 400 / 300
Pepper (hot) 640 / 580
Pepper (sweet) 250 / 200
Potato 420 / 360
Spinach 90 / 60
Tomatoes 150 / 100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Baghdad (RJ)
07:10 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:50 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Jeddah (RJ)
10:32 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:30 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
19:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
20:20 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:50 Miami, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:20 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)
10:30 Baghdad (IA)
14:50 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
16:45 Tripoli (LN)
18:00 Dubai (EK)
18:25 Damascus (AZ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (MS)

10:30 Kuwait (KU)
12:15 Baghdad (IA)
13:20 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
17:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
18:45 Beirut (MS)
20:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
09:25 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Rome, Paris, Madrid (RJ)
11:00 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
11:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:40 Larnaca (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:20 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)
10:30 Baghdad (IA)
14:50 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
16:45 Tripoli (LN)
18:00 Dubai (EK)
18:25 Damascus (AZ)

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

IRBID:	Dr. Ahmed Al Naqouri (—)	Repairs	623101
	Al Shura' pharmacy (985238)	Abdali Telephone Repairs	661111
		Jordan Television	773111
		Radio Jordan	774111
		Water Authority	680100
		Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
		Electric Power	636381
		Company	08-53200
		RJ Flight Information	08-53200
		Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
EMERGENCIES			
Civil Defence Department 661111			
Civil Defence Emergency 630341			
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777			
Fire Brigade 62309093			
Blood Bank 775121			
Highway Police 843402			
Traffic Police 65639091			
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111			
Complaints 605800			
Hotel Complaints 667776			
Price Complaints 667776			
Water and Sewerage 897467			
Amman Municipality 787111			
Complaints 787111			
Telephone Information 12			
(directory assistance) 12			
Overseas Calls 17			
Central Amman Telephone 674155			

ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)883323	Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071	Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986752	Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
IRBID:	Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32	
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6	
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity 64362	
Malthas, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmeisai 66417/4	
Suneciani Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 845845	
Al-Mascher Hospital 66727/9	
The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37	
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646	
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77710/3	
Al-Bashir, J. Adrafah 775112/6	
Army, Madra 89161/15	
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50	
Amal Hospital 674155	
ZARQA:	

Peas 400 / 300	12:30 Kuwait (KU)
Pepper (hot) 640 / 580	12:15 Baghdad (IA)
Pepper (sweet) 250 / 200	13:30 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
Potato 420 / 360	15:45 Tripoli (LN)
Spinach 90 / 60	17:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
Tomatoes 150 / 100	17:45 Rome (AZ)
	19:05 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
	20:30 Beirut (ME)
	06:25 London, Cairo (BA)
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
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ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	

Two insecticide planes arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — Farmers may look to the sky for sunshine and for rain, but looking for a tractor, even one with wings, is a strange notion indeed. Nonetheless, aircraft come to the assistance of agriculture in a variety of roles, and the two turbo-propelled fixed wing aircraft which recently arrived in Jordan earned the name Air Tractor because they are ideally suited for aerial spraying.

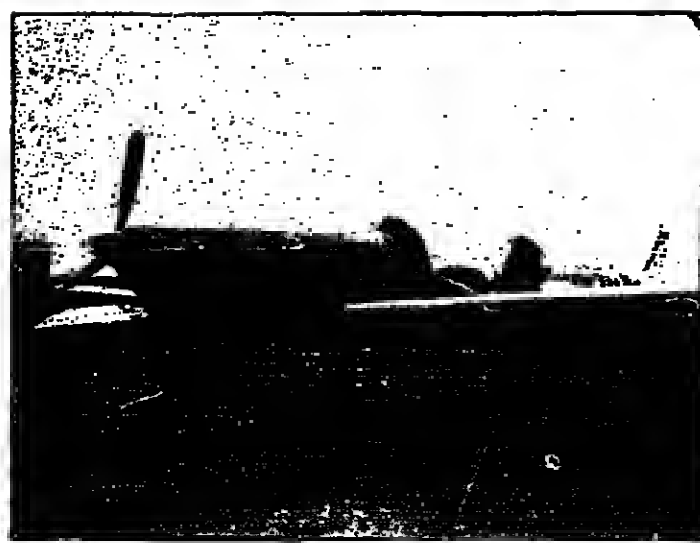
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing the Air Tractors at the request of Ministry of Agriculture to assist the government in fighting an expected infestation of locusts this spring.

With its long range, large payload capacity, safety, and fuel efficiency, the Air Tractor is one of the best planes in the world for spraying locusts. Furthermore, these planes have sufficient climbing power to operate in most of Jordan's mountains and

valleys. The two planes that arrived here have just completed several months of locust control operations in Africa. Their presence in Jordan will give added assurance that Jordan can deal effectively with a possible locust infestation. Although recent entomological reports from Saudi Arabia indicate that the threat has diminished somewhat, both the Ministry of Agriculture and USAID believe that it is critical that Jordan be fully prepared.

According to Dr. Randall C. Cummings, USAID agriculture director, there is a great deal of uncertainty in predicting the movement of locusts. Changing weather conditions, shifts in the winds, or areas in Saudi Arabia where locusts have not yet been controlled could result in locusts invading Jordan.

"The risk to Jordan's agriculture is too great not to make available every resource at our disposal to help Jordan attain



Air Tractors are one of the best planes in the world for aerial crop spraying. Two of the planes have arrived in Jordan and will stand by for use as long as there is a threat of any locust infestation.

maximum preparedness for a locust infestation," Dr. Cummings said.

The planes will remain in Jordan so long as a locust infestation is threatening. While here, the pilots and crew will also provide training to Ministry of Agriculture crop protection service and

Royal Jordanian Air Force personnel in locust control operations.

Dr. Rob Libby, an operations and logistics expert, has returned to Jordan at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture to work with the aircraft and assist in the training.

Tabbaa: ACC opened new markets for Jordan

Saqqaf urges private sector to improve quality, diversify

AMMAN (Petra) — The Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mohammad Saqqaf, Monday issued an appeal to the private sector to reduce the production cost of manufactured goods by all possible means and to improve the quality of exported products to ensure markets for Jordanian products abroad.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Saqqaf said that the government was hoping to see the private sector transformed into an exporter first and an importer second because exports increase the country's foreign currency reserves and help stabilize the national economy.

In remarks here Monday, following the end of a seminar held at the Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss the development of Jordanian exports, Saqqaf said that industry plays a leading role in activating the national economy since it absorbs large numbers of workers, reduces unemployment and brings in badly

needed hard currency for development projects.

The government and the public sector, Saqqaf said, have a limited role and can only help through opening the way for investments by extending facilities and removing obstacles in the path of export operations.

Saqqaf appealed to the private sector to refrain from setting up industries similar to those already existing in the country but rather to open new industrial concerns for different types of products that can be marketed here and abroad.

Referring to the government's economic, financial and monetary policies, Saqqaf said that they were all aimed at stimulating the national economy in general and boosting industry in particular. He said that the government decision to cancel the requirement for licensing newly established industrial and agricultural schemes, the facilities the government offered for the creation of industries and incentives for investors



Mohammad Saqqaf

are all bound to promote industrial production and exports.

The floatation of the Jordanian dinar and the reduced rate of interest on credits from banks were also instrumental in boosting the country's industrial production, Saqqaf added. The decline in the value of the dinar against the U.S. dollar and other

major currencies opened the way for more Jordanian exports, Saqqaf added.

The seminar which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan ended Monday evening when the Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan announced that a drafting committee was assigned the task of compiling the set of recommendations and documents for publication.

Abu Hassan, in a closing address to the meeting, said that Jordan was facing a difficult stage demanding double efforts for production.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa who opened the meetings delivered Prince Hassan's address in which he pointed out that the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) has opened new markets for Jordanian exports and paved the way for closer cooperation among the four ACC countries to bolster the Arab Nation's economy.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

GOOD WISHES: His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ali on his country's national day. The King wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Tunisian people. (Petra)

ROYAL DECREES: A Royal Decree was issued Monday appointing Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib to serve as acting minister of health. Health Minister Zuhair Malhas is currently on official business abroad. Another decree was issued conferring the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order on China's Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Zhen upon the termination of his tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

COMPUTER EXPO: Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabeh Saturday opened the Amman computer expo the first major computer exhibition in Jordan where the latest advances in computer and office automation equipment are featured. The exhibition, currently at the King Abdullah Public Park Complex, runs through Friday March 24. (J.T.)

INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS: Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa had a meeting in Amman Monday with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative Ali Atiga to discuss U.N.-Jordanian cooperation in industrial training fields. The two sides discussed the idea of dispatching U.N. experts to help Jordan develop its industrial exports. The minister told Atiga that the ministry plans to establish a Higher Council of Jordanian Exports. (Petra)

DEVELOPMENT: Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin met Monday with heads of development councils in the Amman region to review issues related to economic, social and services sectors. The meeting heard views of various participants about these projects. (J.T.)

PRINCESS BASMA OPENS BAZAAR: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opened a charity bazaar at the Nozha Social Development Centre. The three-day bazaar includes sections displaying needleworks, woven dresses, handicrafts, flowers, food, and children's clothes. (Petra)

ZAKAT: A seminar on zakat (alms for the poor) will open at Yarmouk University Tuesday. The two-day meeting will be attended by 40 Islamic scholars from Jordan and other countries. (J.T.)

SAFETY ON ROADS: The Public Transport Corporation organised a training seminar in Amman Monday to deal with public safety on the roads. Among the speakers were senior officers from the Civil Defence Department. (J.T.)

EXHIBITION: The first Jordanian products exhibition will be held in Abu Dhabi on March 28, with 85 Jordanian companies taking part. The exhibition is organised by the Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation, in cooperation with Amman Chamber of Commerce. (Petra)

PHYSICS: A physics conference started Monday at the University of Jordan. The conference is organised by the physics department at the university in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society. University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Majali told the conference that the university believes in the importance of research and expressed desire to participate in conference and seminars so as to exchange experience and expertise. (Petra)



EXHIBITIONS: Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Al Monday opened two week-long exhibitions at the University of Jordan. The first is a photography exhibition depicting student activities at the university as well as Jordan's historical and tourist sites. The second one is a Jordanian national heritage exhibition which includes Jordanian-made carpets and dresses of rural Jordanian women. (Petra)

Ministry, charities coordinate efforts

SOUTH SHUNEH. The Jordan Valley (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development is moving ahead with plans to coordinate its work with that of the voluntary and charitable organisations in a bid to provide better services to Jordan Valley residents, Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan said Monday.

The minister, who was addressing a meeting of heads of voluntary and charitable organisations in the South and North Shuneh districts, said that the ministry considers social development as

complementing economic development in the Kingdom and thus will try to carry out income-generating projects in cooperation with local organisations. The joint effort entails producing traditional handicrafts, creating job opportunities for the unemployed, opening children's clubs and providing services of all kinds to the local population, Touqan noted.

He said that the ministry will be implementing the projects in cooperation with the National Aid Fund.

Underground water techniques discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from five Arab countries ended a two-day meeting in Amman Monday during which they discussed means of employing nuclear isotopes and other related technology for exploring underground water resources and developing these resources on sound basis.

Delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates discussed also measures to test water samples and to promote cooperation in water-related fields benefiting from experiences of advanced nations.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation's water-control laboratories said that Jordan which possesses isotope laboratories has been considered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a regional centre serving the Arab region in these fields. Jordan's laboratories, he said, will provide services in water related affairs to the countries of the region in cooperation with the Vienna-based IAEA.

The two-day gathering was organised by IAEA in cooperation with the Ministries of Water and Irrigation and Energy and Mineral Resources.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizaullah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismail displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jaloo at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luwibdeh.
- ★ A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ The Amman computer exhibition at the King Abdullah Complex — 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, with slides, entitled "The Fascinating Marine Environment of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea" by Dr. Ahmad Abu-Hilal at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A video featuring artists such as Madonna, Talking Heads, Bon Jovi, Grateful Dead, Run DMC and Prince at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Amman, Islamabad twin

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Sunday in Amman for twinning the Jordanian capital with the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, paving the ground for mutual cooperation in municipal affairs and exchanges of expertise and trade between the two cities.

The agreement signed by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabeh and visiting Islamabad Mayor Mazhar Rafi provides for cooperation in cultural, architectural, commercial and scientific fields as well as in areas of city organisation, public administration, planning, traffic control, transport, protecting the environment, safeguarding public health and public gardens.

3,300 tonnes of poultry arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply plans to put for sale in the local market 3,300 tonnes of imported frozen poultry meat, according to Ali Dastour daily which quotes ministry officials. It said that the ministry has additional plans for importing more fresh and frozen sheep meat to be ready for the local markets during the coming month of Ramadan which is expected to begin April 6. Last year the ministry purchased additional consignments of meat during Ramadan.

Make teaching maths fun

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Looking at science from a completely new perspective and trying to modify its content was the theme of a lecture entitled "Significance of Teaching Sciences Through Their Practical Aspects." The lecture was delivered at the University of Jordan by Mike Farr, a senior lecturer in science education at Gwent College of Higher Education.

The purpose of the lecture was to show that pupils should develop the intellectual and practical skills that allow them to explore the world of science and to develop a fuller understanding of scientific phenomena as well as the procedure of scientific exploration and investigation.

This work should take place in the context of activities that require a progressively more systematic and quantified approach, which draws upon an increasing knowledge and understanding of science, Farr said in his lecture.

Moreover, the activities should encourage the child's ability to



Mike Farr

plan for the task, carry out experiments, interpret results and findings, draw inferences and communicate exploratory tasks and experiments.

"Science should be fun. It need not be taught didactically and children should enjoy experimentation," Farr said.

This new attitude and approach to science, is based on the children doing the work by themselves, exploring and then learning. The child to child communication and the child to

teacher communication is supposed to arouse the child's curiosity.

Some kind of communication is carried out through the use of words, language, drama and movement accompanied by some words. The idea is that science is going into art.

"The teacher should set up a challenge for the child to think about, trying to get the child to talk to him. In turn, the teacher should value the child's ideas and try them. A teacher should never tell a child what to do," Farr said.

Through a live demonstration of the many educational aids — or toys, as Farr calls them — which he and his assistant Barrie Hughes constructed, he was able to show his audience how pupils are able to develop their knowledge and understanding of the properties of materials, and the way these properties determine their uses and form the basis for their classification.

Another topic which the lecturer tackled was the developing of the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the nature of energy, its transfer and control.

Italian firm to build joint Jordanian-Iraqi detergent plant

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Iraq-Jordan Industry Company has awarded a tender to a construction company for the building of a 15 million Iraqi dinar plant to produce chemical detergents, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

Saqqaf said that the plant, which will be set up in Baghdad, is expected to produce 60,000 tonnes of detergents annually, sufficient for the needs of Iraq.

The tender was awarded to an Italian firm which will implement the project in 22 months, Saqqaf added.

said, will own the rest of the shares.

The shares allotted for the Iraqi private sector have been sold out to the public and the Jordanian shares are now on sale here until the end of the month.

The joint Iraqi-Jordanian company was established in implementation of resolutions passed by the Joint Jordanian Iraqi Higher Committee.

A new version of 'Maqamat Al Hariri'

Ahmad Ismail revives ancient Arab manuscripts

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ahmad Ismail presents at "The Gallery" (Jordan Intercontinental Hotel), a collection of lithographs that he executed in Leningrad during his 7 years stay there, studying art. They are his personal rendering of the well-known 13th Century Baghdad manuscript illustrations of "Maqamat Al Hariri". He had seen the original "Maqamat" in the Oriental Institute of Research of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad. (Two other versions of the "Maqamat" are still in existence. They can be found in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris and in the Suleymaniye library, Istanbul, Turkey.)

The manuscripts bear illustrated texts of the story of "Abu Zaid", an unscrupulous traditional Arab figure who, through swift and witty improvisations, managed to touch great individuals as well as dense crowds, enough to rid them of their rewards. He constantly disguised himself as a poor woman, a monk, a pauper, or whatever, with the sole aim of getting hold of his adversary's money. The stories are humorous and almost always carry a moral. They include innumerable allusions, ingenious metaphors, pun and guesswork. Fifty chapters of the Leningrad Maqamat still exist. The original illustrator tries to depict the exact city in which the events take place in order to avoid ambiguity. The illustrations fit into the same pages as the text. They are often based

on Byzantine paintings or on the shadow puppetry so popular in thirteenth century Baghdad. Shadow puppetry conveys only the silhouette of the figures with plenty of open space around them (as in Al-Wasiti's illustrations of the Maqamat found in Paris). The Leningrad manuscript, however, has a very personal style of rendering; the artist includes the crowd, an infinite amount of people talking, arguing, questioning. They are not standing in single file, but in circles and ellipses beside a lake, a shop or a banquet.

There are always the odd persons who are totally detached from the scene while others seem to convey passionate attention to what is happening. These compositions range from simple to more complicated ones. Although coloured, they boast a high quality of line and a great sense of spontaneity.

Ahmad Ismail spent a long time studying and assimilating all these ideas and methods. He then produced his own condensed version of the manuscript. Ridding them of their colour, he proceeds, with the spontaneity of the old master, to create dynamic figures and simple landscapes that be produced with very few brushstrokes. This collection of lithographs (stone printing) took him one year of work, studying the characters, the costumes, and other epics and miniatures of the time, that bear any resemblance to the Maqamat.

"I tried to illustrate the Maqamat in such a way as to be

compatible with the old text and execute drawings that are not less beautiful than the original paintings. I kept away from colour and excessive decoration; away from anything that might impede the beauty of line, the movement and the textures created by stone lithography."

The Arabic calligraphy that he incorporates into his sketches fits well into the overall composition. Some of the preliminary studies are made with spontaneous brushstrokes of watercolour conveying a basic composition that he sticks to in his major works. Thick lines are always alleviated with fine lines rendering fragile details that are witnesses of his great sensitivity.

As for printing the works: "I worked on these with a professional who had acquired the trade from his father, therefore very capable. It took us a full day to print one picture, with the special effects that we meant to bring out in the impressions. I could get only three prints out of a stone. It is a difficult technique!"

In one of his scenes, he catches a moment in time when Abu Zaid dresses as a poor old woman and convinces two men who had just received awards from the wali (the ruler) to hand them over to him. Everyone looks on while the disguised charlatan looks slyly at us with his hand near his face as if he were whispering to us "watch, see what I shall do!". In another scene he shows a number of merchants who are worried about crossing the desert which is full of

brigands. Abu Zaid disguises himself in the attire of a monk and promises to save them. Here Ahmad bases his character studies on those of the Russian painter Ivanov, in whose "The Apparition of Christ to the People" contrasting reactions are depicted; disbelief and skepticism, complete conviction and appeal for mercy, anxiety etc. In this case some figures beg Abu Zaid to accompany them, some seem hopeless while others look away totally unaffected by the dilemma.

In yet another Maqamat Abu Zaid convinces a woman to allow him to sit on her back and pretend to be his wife in front of the wali. She is to say to him that Abu Zaid had promised her father to be good and kind to her but was not. When the wali scolded him and asked him why he behaved so badly towards his wife, Abu Zaid said he was worried about his waning trade, literature. Asked to prove his capabilities, Abu Zaid rattles on, talking in the best thing he can do, and surely enough, he is rewarded.

What better to portray this funny anecdote with than suave brushstrokes, asymmetry of composition, portraying of incidents such as a slipper on one foot the other bare.

Ahmad is not always so explicit. He sometimes offers a partial explanation of the text hoping to incite the viewer to look up the Maqamat and find the meaning out for himself.

Ahmad excels in characterisation especially in the scene where Abu Zaid comes face to face with Al-Harith, a rich merchant who is always at the receiving end of Abu Zaid's wily manoeuvres. Both are mounted on donkeys standing on the opposite sides of a creek. Al Harith sits up solemnly on his beast while Abu Zaid's features swirl along with the sharp curvatures lines created by the sudden diagonal arrest of the falling movement of the donkey on the slope. Here again, in the tradition of the old master, line and movement have lyrical connotations. "Having used no colour, I try to convey mood and time of day such as a calm evening with line and values." (Values = scale of dark to light).

One of his works had Japanese overtones, the mountain, the ship, all painted in the "Sumi-e" method while the flying fish resembled those seen so often in Far Eastern decorations. Ahmad agreed saying that he had for some time worked on Japanese painting techniques and that the fish in this work simply filled in the space of the sea. He couldn't refrain from expressing the joy he had felt drawing them, "Make two brushstrokes you get a fish!"

Ahmad exhibits other works at "The Gallery", sketches done with a Rotring rapidograph. The forms and volumes are enhanced by the chiaro-scuro, but it lacks the sensitivity present in his other pen and ink sketches, as the single thickness of the rapidograph could not compete with his use of a variety of nibs.

"Salt" show a strong use of line (pencil) be it the structural lines of the architecture, the tracery of the windows or the electric cable, it forms a skeleton on which the area use of colour lies.

In his landscapes, with a river view, transparency and reflections are created by the various techniques of watercolour that he masters well. His use of analogous colours transmit a feeling of serenity.

Since the Jordan Times had formerly covered works of this artist, a tiny masterpiece was brought back to light. A sketch of a solitary tree rendered with a great mastery of light, of volume and composition on the whole. Other tiny ink drawings portray little children with few lines and good handling.

When asked why he chose to exhibit in that particular gallery Ahmad answered "I like it more than any other because of its intimacy. One can get closer to the work and see the details... the technique."

The question was posed to the gallery director Nuha Batshon, "How did you come across him?" He had come to the gallery to look around, mentioned his work, she asked him to bring in his lithographs for her to see. "As soon as I set eyes on his Maqamat I loved them," she exclaimed.

Many share her feelings for the Maqamat, although his watercolours or ink drawings might be more appealing to others. No one seems to say any ill of him. It is an exhibition worth seeing.

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Prevention first

THE four-day conference on cancer scheduled to be opened today by Her Majesty Queen Noor is a grim reminder that modern-day diseases have reached Jordan with a vengeance. According to Jordanian medical experts, the number of cancer cases officially reported annually in Jordan is on the rise due to environmental changes, smoking habits and artificial foods ever more consumed by Jordanians in contemporary times. There was a time when Jordanian eating habits, life-style and environmental hygiene were such that Jordanians enjoyed relative freedom from cancer and cancer-related diseases.

However, with the advent of progress and economic development, especially in the form of industrialisation, the first result was a rise in cancer cases among Jordanians. It is fortunate that there is now a deliberate campaign to awaken Jordanians, whether in the public or the private sectors, about this disease in order to make a concerted effort to reverse the tide. The ongoing conference on cancer could serve as the very platform from which a well orchestrated campaign could be launched to inform Jordanians of all walks of life about this dreadful disease. Furthermore, our concerned authorities should embark on a well planned campaign to educate people on how to beat the disease. The best medicine in this context is preventive medicine. Jordanians should be told what to eat and what not to eat and what to drink and what not to drink. More information need to be disseminated, for example, on the need to eat roughage and other natural foods. This is not to mention the health problems associated with smoking. The recent decision to ban smoking in public places goes a long way to combat the habit of smoking which is silently killing thousands of Jordanians. Jordanians also need better protection from imported and domestically manufactured foods to make sure they do not contain cancer-causing ingredients. One wonders in this context whether the meat, fish and poultry we eat are free of radiation for example, not to mention other causes of the disease that comes in different forms and shapes. Another related matter in point is the misuse of insecticides and pesticides by farmers which leaves untold quantities of residues in the foods we eat daily unaware of their cancer-causing attributes. Likewise the quality of the water we drink needs to be under constant supervision lest cancer-causing ingredients seep silently but ominously into it. As to environmental concerns, we in Jordan are just beginning to comprehend the magnitude of the problems posed by pollution. To be sure, the list of concerns in this context are indeed endless. That is why it would be wise for the conferees to concentrate on cancer preventive measures with a view to reversing the rise in cancer cases among Jordanians.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Monday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's latest tour in Europe where he met with government leaders to discuss the Palestine problem and prospects for convening an international conference. The paper also referred to King Hussein's statements following a meeting in London with the British prime minister in which he said that Europe was now expected to play a leading role in settling the Palestine problem. The King, the paper noted, is continuing his efforts at all levels and around the world for the sake of bringing about peace to the Middle East and enabling the Palestinians regain their rights and land. His views are respected by the world leaders who now are fully oriented on Jordan's peaceful endeavours, a development considered favourable for the Arabs and helpful towards the achievement of peace, said the paper. Al Ra'i said that the King's strenuous efforts and his ideas and policies have won support for the Arab cause and paved the way for Europe's role in establishing peace in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily urges the government and concerned authorities to maintain the good reputation which Jordan enjoys among visitors and tourists of this country by doubling their efforts at border posts, airports and other ports of entry to win the confidence of visitors from the Arab and the foreign countries. Jordan, Salah Abdul Samad says, has enjoyed good reputation as a tourist attraction centre, thanks to the joint efforts of the public and private sector. The Kingdom, he adds, is normally visited by large numbers of Arabs and foreigners in the summer and the visitors expect to see good facilities, efficient services, refreshments and cleanliness upon entry and departure — something which Jordan has provided over the years, the writer says. He expresses hope that more efforts will be made to boost tourism and leave excellent impression on the visitors of Jordan.

Al Dustour daily tackled the escalation of atrocities on the part of the Israeli forces against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The paper said that Israelis are now committing more and more massacres against the civilian population in a bid to quell the uprising and end the struggle for freedom. This escalation of killings and criminal actions against Palestinian freedom fighters proves Israel's failure to end the revolt and the total disappointment of the Zionist leaders who seem to have lost their minds and resorted to crimes, the paper said. The Palestinian revolt is besieging the Israelis and exposing their actions before the whole world, the paper added. It said that the bloodbath in the occupied territories should draw serious and immediate action on the part of the world community in general and the U.N. Security Council in particular.

Sawt Al Shaah daily referred to King Hussein's latest tour in Europe and his talks on the Middle East problem. There is no doubt that the King has won for the Arab cause greater support from European leaders and friendly nations of the world through his relentless efforts and hard work. The King's participation to the Hague meetings to discuss the safety for the planet Earth and his talks in Holland and Britain on peace in the Middle East were part of his ongoing endeavours to give impetus to the peace process, the paper said.

By Gideon Rafael

ONCE UPON a time, this country was ruled by a Prime Ministers' Club: three men in a rickety boat shooting the swirling rapids of national crises. They navigated together, when weathering the storm of some major security mishaps, but each steered his independent course separately on the primary national issues.

Where are they now? The minister of defence is immersed in the turbulence of the uprising, the minister of finance engaged in a rescue mission of the stranded economy, leaving the third passenger, the incumbent prime minister, to hold the rudder without let or hindrance. Whether he dumped his companions or whether they inadvertently fell overboard is immaterial. What counts is that Shamir is in control, single-handed and single-minded.

Indeed, he never had it so good. His Labour partners are suffering from advanced ideological deficiency; his party opponents are more or less domesticated; the public, by and large, though worried, is resigned to the deadlocked peace process. The rebellious Palestinians don't much affect his show of equanimity. Rabin will bring them back to senses. After all, what can you expect from them? "Arabs are Arabs," reasons the prime minister.

Antagonistic world public opinion? So what. Restriction of access to the trouble spots by the media and a well-orchestrated information campaign will take care of the problem. Political initiatives by foreign governments? Aren't they disabuse them. There thus remains the United States. So far all is quiet on the Washington front. A few diversionary moves are likely to delay further its Middle Eastern take-off.

The only thing that really seems to upset the prime minister in his blissful world of make-believe is the disbelievers at home. He feels constrained to warn the public sternly against the peace activists, denouncing them as a sinister force of perilsous potential while at the same time ridiculing them as a marginal bunch of noise-makers. The dissenters are enemies of the people and Arab temptations of peace are dismissed as satanic verses. Unwilling to rein in Gush Emunim, the self-chosen redeemer of the Whole Land of Israel, the

government succumbs not only to its settlement drive but also resigns itself to the excesses of its vigilantes. Some of their methods, initially rejected by the government, have today become standard practice of the organs of security.

"The premier sees the dissenters as enemies of the people, and Arab temptations of peace are dismissed as satanic verses."

The stern measures which the government feels bound to take against rioters and demonstrators in the territories are directed by a minister from the ranks of Labour. They are corroding not only the ideological and moral integrity of his party, but the country's democratic fundamentals. The grey areas, to use a term of the chief-of-staff, between law and lawlessness are expanding. Violence, spreading from the territories, begins to penetrate the blood-stream of the nation, similar to the drugs when they became easily available in the wake of the war in Lebanon.

The ultimate aim of Shamir's policy and the supreme article of his faith is the establishment of Israeli sovereignty over the Whole Land of Israel from the sea to the river. The more he feels challenged in the attainment of this goal, the stronger he proclaims his unwavering adherence to it. In a recent interview with Arnaud de Borchgrave, the editor of *The Washington Times*, he declared: "The Middle East dispute is about the whole of Eretz Yisrael. It belongs to us. It is nonsense to talk about a territorial solution in such a small territorial area." Doubters of the firmness of his commitment are reminded that Shamir's intransigence is convictional unlike Rabin's obstinacy which is congenital.

At home, the prime minister does not shy away from fierce confrontation with his opponents; but abroad, he tries to avoid frontal clashes by prevarication and procrastination. At home, he hurls his *nyets* like thunderbolts, abroad he sounds them *sotte* voice. Marking time is the hallmark of Shamir's diplomacy. It is designed to fortify his positions and to erode those of his adversaries. Who says that Israel's foreign policy lacks mobility? To one

week alone in the month of February the prime minister dined in Paris with the president of France, the foreign minister wrangled in Cairo with his Soviet counterpart and the president mourned in Tokyo the departed emperor. The spring season is fully booked with roving diplomacy. It will reach its peak in Washington in April.

No doubt the intensity of this diplomatic mobility is generated by the dynamics of the uprising. It is inconceivable that the prime minister, despite his nonchalant dismissal of the intifada as a passing nuisance, is not aware of its worldwide repercussions. He surely realises that the road to formal annexation of the territories is strewn with formidable obstacles. Arafat professed his endorsement of resolution 242 and willingness to live in peace with the state of Israel.

The United States has engaged in a dialogue, hesitant but continuing, with the PLO. Washington too expects Israel to come forward with positive ideas meant to reduce the pressures in the territories and to restart the peace process. Moscow dangles the carrot of renewed relations for cooperation with its peace programme. The European Community appears united in its appreciation of Arafat's moves.

The prime minister, unable to take the obstacles by direct assault, tries to bypass them by a custom-tailored version of the Camp David Accord. His plan means to substitute the limited transitional period of full Palestinian autonomy with a permanent regime of Israel-controlled, restricted Palestinian self-administration of indefinite duration.



The world according to Yitzhak Shamir

totality of the Land of Israel may lead to a regime of total rule over the people of Israel perverting its free humanistic society and keeping the country embroiled in permanent war.

In such circumstances, what does the future hold in store for the Palestinians? Some nine years ago, this writer speculated on this question in an article in *The Jerusalem Post*. "Side by side with a rational search for a solution of the Palestinian problem there exists in the country an

"The striving for the rule over the totality of the Land of Israel may lead to a regime of total rule over the people of Israel, perverting its free humanistic society and keeping the country embroiled in permanent war."

irrational approach to the problem. Its supporters, mixed in mysticism and militancy, seem to believe that a cataclysmic event would relieve Israel of the Palestinian issue. Indeed it may, but in the same way as Samson solved his predicament when he buried himself in the ruins of the house he had brought down over the heads of the Philistines. Nothing is more dangerous to humanity than unbridled obsession running wild."

Developments over the last nine years seem to warrant the validity of the foregoing. Suffice it to remember what the court proceedings against the members of the so-called Jewish underground revealed. Since then the idea of deportation has become institutionalised in the Knesset. Prime Minister Shamir alludes to the subject in his own way. In a recent statement he declared: "Were the dispute only between Israel and the Palestinians, it would have been over a long time ago, because they are not a very hard nut to crack."

What, then, retards the "cracking of the nut"? "It is," in the prime minister's view, "the refusal of the Arab World and its armies to accept Israel's existence."

The Arabs want war, Israel will defeat them and the Palestinian malady will be cured, presumably by Gandhi's prescription. This is the world according to Prime Minister Shamir: a world where

enmity is irreconcilable and military force the sole arbiter of the destiny of nations; where rejection prevails over acceptance and time stands still.

But is this the real world? The world of the approaching 21st century where the ice of deep-frozen conflicts begins to melt; where the superpowers are moving away from confrontation towards cooperation; where international conflicts increasingly are being settled at the conference table and not on the battlefield; where the world community recognises self-preservation and self-determination as inalienable rights of people?

The misreading of the political, psychological, economic, moral, demographic and strategic map of the contemporary world is fraught with disaster. Sharon's misinterpretation of Secretary Haig's benevolent nod in May 1982 as endorsement of his harebrained schemes in Lebanon, vanished abruptly when an enraged President Reagan phoned Prime Minister Begin in August to cease immediately the heavy bombing of Beirut, of which the minister of defence had omitted to inform his prime minister. This was the turning point of Israel's misfortunes in Lebanon and the beginning of Begin's political demise.

Similarly, a misreading of Washington's present attitude of "playing it cool" may produce a rude awakening all around, when the new administration has warned up for action, realising that benign neglect will increase the dangers of a wider conflagration inherent in a situation of unbridled violence.

The supreme duty of government is to envision the consequences of its policies and actions. Shamir's course of negation, stagnation and isolation will neither advance his designs for the whole of the Land of Israel nor secure the future of the State of Israel. No state in the world can provide alone its needs of security, growth, peace and well being of its people.

But, above all, Israelis and Palestinians, sharing the same land, must realise that they cannot ensure their own separate national existence by perpetual combat but only by a bold act of conciliation and mutual concession. The time is ripe to try it.

The writer is former director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry. The article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

Doctoral thesis uncovers widespread nepotism in Brazil

By Jorge Medeiros
The Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil — For her doctoral thesis in political science, Maria Aparecida de Oliveira did some research into government nepotism. What she turned up became a front-page, nationwide scandal.

At a time when President Jose Sarney pledged to lay off 90,000 government functionaries as part of a drastic plan to halt 1,000 per cent-plus annual inflation, Ms. Oliveira said she discovered that nearly half the 560 members of Brazil's two-house congress have relatives — lots of them — in soft, high-paying federal jobs.

She said senators and representatives employ wives, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces as "advisers." They make the equivalent of \$2,000 to \$4,000 a month in a country where the government-set minimum wage is \$64 a month.

The 37-year-old graduate student at the National University of Brasilia, who also works as a fact checker in Brasilia for the Rio de Janeiro newspaper *Jornal do Brasil*, released her findings to the press before submitting her thesis to her professors.

Her revelations brought outcries for a cleanup. They also resulted in angry warnings from some congressional staffers to Ms. Oliveira to keep her nose out of their affairs.

"This was not a cheap trick to sell newspapers or, as some people have charged, to provoke a military takeover of congress," Ms. Oliveira said in an interview. "I did it in the interest of Brazilian national sovereignty."

Civilian government returned to Brazil in 1985 after 21 years of military rule. Officials promised an idealistic "new republic," but the new administration has been plagued by constant denunciations of corruption and waste.

"Unfortunately, our new democracy is confined to paper," Ms. Oliveira said. "It has not reached people's consciences."

She said she gathered data for her study "from the congressional payroll, with help from senators and representatives who do not practice nepotism." She concluded the practice exists across the political spectrum, from right to left.

Ms. Oliveira said, 197 of the 485 members employ 279 relatives. Representative Pedro Ceolin Sobrinho, of the conservative Liberal Front Party, is the leader with 10 family members on his staff.

Representative Jose Mauricio Linhares Barreto, of the left-leaning Democratic Labour Party, put his 14-year-old son in an advisory post at \$1,176 a month, the study said.

It also counted 32 of the 75 senators as being nepotistic, led by Sen. Humberto Lucena. The former senate president, from Sarney's centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, has four children, a brother, a son-in-law, a niece and a sister-in-law on his payroll.

"My conscience is clear," Lucena said. "We are talking about 'confidential appointments,' permitted by law. My relatives serving in these posts

will work only as long as I am in office. They will not become permanent congressional staff members."

"I hired my son-in-law, now divorced from one of my daughters, as a technical adviser, not because of our relationship but because of his high competence. My brother Solon was hired by another senator, not by me."

Another star of nepotism, Ms. Oliveira said, is the president's daughter, Roseana Sarney, who joined the staff of congress when her father was a senator. She now makes the equivalent of \$4,000 a month while living in Rio de Janeiro, 1,200 kilometres from Brasilia, where congress is located.

Senators and representatives may legally hire "advisers." Congress members also are given, at taxpayer expense, cars and drivers, apartments in Brasilia, free

mail and telephone use, and free plane tickets to and from their home states.

"What's immoral is the nepotism," said Ms. Oliveira, who has degrees in economics, agronomy and journalism.

Adilson Abreu Dallari, a judge and the author of the book "The Civil Servant," said in an interview that administrative corruption has become "part of Brazilian culture — everybody wants something."

He said the roots of the problem go back nearly 500 years when Brazilian colonists received grants, favours and hereditary titles from kings of Portugal.

Villas-Boas Correa, a widely read political columnist, said the nepotism scandal "degrades congress and political parties and is an invitation for a military coup, justified on ground of morality."

He added that, like congress,

state legislatures and city halls throughout this nation of 144 million "are full of 'ghosts,' civil servants who do no work and show up only to pick up their paychecks."

The first secretary of the senate, Antonio Mendes Canalle, said that as a result of Ms. Oliveira's findings, the senate will draw up a list to see who does what and works where.

But the speaker of the house, representative Antonio Paes de Andrade, who serves as acting president when Sarney is out of the country, said staff hiring is each legislator's "exclusive responsibility."

Soon afterward, Paes de Andrade made news when, while Sarney was in Japan for Emperor Hirohito's funeral in February, he headed two presidential jets with friends, relatives, political cronies and journalists and flew



them to a welcoming ceremony in his home town in Brazil's impoverished northeast.

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Palestinian costumes

TEXTILES and embroidery have long played a central part in Palestinian life, and since for many centuries the land was a meeting place of different cultures, an exceptionally rich variety of styles has developed there.

In a newly published book *Palestinian Costume*, Jehan Rajab looks at the garments worn by three distinct groups: the Baladun, or townsfolk, who made up the sophisticated commercial population and were most open to foreign influences, the Fellahin or villagers, from whom came the most beautiful embroideries and the Bedu, whose embroidery and clothes were influenced by village styles but had their own individual features.

Clothes are functional articles that have to meet the needs of working life. They are influenced by the environment and were in the past affected by the availability of natural materials. Village women wove, dyed and embroidered their clothes and sometimes those of their menfolk. Because it was worked on perishable such as clothing or household items, little of their craft remains that dates back further than about the mid-nineteenth century. Until recently full use was made of every article, either until it wore out or was recycled by being turned into wiping rags or pot holders.

Silver folk jewellery was not usually passed on from mother to daughter, as is frequently the case elsewhere. Every bride received on marriage new jewellery (perhaps from old jewellery melted down) that represented her financial security, which was why it needed to be new, not

already worn down by use. Clothing and textiles from the courts and towns have generally survived longer than those from the villages. Many superb early Ottoman costumes and pieces of embroidery were preserved in the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul and this collection has told researchers a good deal about changes that took place in design, colour and fabrics and thus something about the social conditions of the time. This is just as applicable to folk costume, which reveals so much of the lives and circumstances of the majority of the population, Rajab notes. Folk costume reveals the cultural and historical features of a society and provides evidence of its creative urge.

The Bedu, for example, were finely adapted to their necessarily nomadic life in a harsh environment. It was impossible for them to carry much in the way of worldly goods so their creative urges were channelled into weaving, embroidery and poetry.

Palestine was a major crossroads of civilisation, a part of the Fertile Crescent where man had his beginnings and a holy place for three religions. Accordingly, it was subject to the influence of many civilisations as well as to invasion from all quarters. These factors probably contribute to the diversity of costume which emerged over the years. Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Crusader and Turk all passed through the country, with each group leaving something of itself behind. The influence of the invader can be seen, for example, in the costumes and embroidery of those East European countries

which came under Ottoman domination. The climate, religious and other beliefs also played their part.

Before the advent of Islam the basic outlines of Middle Eastern garments were loose and flowing and the religion encouraged a continuation of that style. Islam laid emphasis on modesty of behaviour for both men and women. Aside from being suit-

were expected by the time of their wedding to have finished their bridal dress, cushion covers and other household items for their new home. Indeed, a prospective bride was assessed not only on her general character, health and looks but her embroidery was also examined and commented on, for its execution was considered a good indication of her personality. Embroidery has persisted among the Palestinians to the present day, although many of the old motifs and patterns have long since ceased to be used, with many probably lost permanently.

In her book, which boasts a wealth of Palestinian photographs and other striking illustrations, Jehan Rajab captures not only the history of Palestinian costume but also some of the rich cultural tradition of the Palestine region. Accessories, hairstyles, jewellery, superstitions, special festivals and stories from regional centres where weaving and dyeing were carried out — all are interwoven into her fascinating text. — *Middle East Magazine*.

BOOK REVIEW

able for frequently harsh climatic conditions, such garments did not reveal too much of the figure so preserving decorum in appearance and conduct.

As the author points out, young Palestinian girls began to learn their stitches between the ages of six and ten years old. After the day's work had been done but while the light was still good, the women would gather outside their doorways to sit and talk and work on their embroidery and help the small girls with their first stitches. They

Palestinian Costume by Jehan Rajab. Published by Keegan Paul International Ltd, P.O. Box 256, London WC1B 3SW.



Woman from Sinai area (modern).

Bethlehem bride — early 20th Century. The bride is wearing the shatweh (Bethlehem hat) decorated with gold and silver coins.

The original cosmic spark

The search for a new structural form of matter will now receive further support in the form of one of the Promotion Prizes awarded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (German Research Association) under the aegis of their *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Programme*. The prizes represent a sum of DM 3 million and are expected to be used for further research. The most fascinating "application" of this search for the mysterious "quark matter" is the fact that the basic spark of the universe could flare up during the fusion of atomic nuclei.

LEUKIPPOS, the pre-Christian Greek natural philosopher, who on the basis of simple thought processes stumbled upon the concept of an atomistic structure of all matter, would probably be amazed at the lavish measures being undertaken in the 20th century to track down matter's very last indivisible components. Using fantastically expensive machinery research centres throughout the world continue to break down the proton and the neutron, the two components of the atomic nucleus, or as a prize-winning research group headed by Professor Reinhard Stock, a nuclear physicist from Frankfurt, did reassemble them. "The cost of our experiments is somewhere in the middle of the cost scale between very, very expensive for those in high-energy physics and considerably cheaper for those in nuclear physics. The experiment we are currently doing at CERN would cost about DM 20 million if we had to start from scratch," maintains Stock, adding that "it has kept 59 physicists busy for a period of eight years."

What has prompted physicists from all over the world to join

forces for several years now in the joint project "NA 35" at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva are the elemental components of the world: quarks. In the final analysis the components of the atomic nucleus proton and neutron consist of them. The quarks, however, are "stuck together" in the atomic components like Siamese triplets due to one of the four basic physical forces, the "strong force." They do not occur in a free state in nature. Stock and his group want to make the quarks embedded in this strong force "glue" somewhat more mobile by packing them closer together than they normally are in an atomic nucleus. If they succeed, they will have achieved a new constitutional structure in which "the quarks float around freely, as in a gas. We want to unleash them in great volume and see what qualities they turn up." It is at all, this quark matter can only form at inconceivably high temperatures; the researchers will have to heat the atomic nucleus to at least one billion degrees Celsius in order to generate their boiling plasma. Because

this new state of matter can only be generated using the brute force of particle projectiles, the researchers require the high-energy accelerator at CERN. Currently they are shooting sulfuric atomic nuclei at gold foil. When a sulfur ion collides with a gold ion, 228 protons and neutrons fuse and are pressed together to form more than double the density. A tiny fireball forms which immediately splits apart again. This takes no longer than nuclei moving almost at the speed of light need to pierce each other; that is, the fraction of a second with a denominator comprised of one and 24 zeros.

Only the elementary particle bursts, which occur in hundreds during this mini-explosion, become visible experimentally. Their traces can be visualised in a "streamer chamber" specially designed for this purpose and then captured on 70-mm film. The type and quantity of the fragments that occur during the bursting of the fireball provide information about the processes inside it.

In this context, the researchers are primarily interested in obtaining a better understanding of the strong force which "holds the quarks together" and thus according to Stock "the whole of the inner world." However, there is another motive at the back of this Faustian curiosity; that is, how unresolved questions about the creation of the universe should be tackled. On the one hand, it is assumed that neutron stars or the remains of super-nova

explosions consist of highly dense nuclear matter, which may even form quark plasma. On the other hand, cosmologists investigating the origins of the universe assume that quark plasma could be the basic form of all matter existing at the beginning of the universe in the Big Bang. "In the beginning," Stock states, "this quark matter condensed into small drops. These drops are the protons and neutrons, which our present universe consists of." A study of the transition from quark matter to protons and neutrons on a laboratory scale could therefore help clarify some of the cosmological questions that have not yet been answered.

For the time being, though, the experts are not even sure that this quark matter has even shown up in the experiments conducted so far. The initial evaluation has not produced anything more than encouraging indications to the effect that it really does form. This, however, is not surprising since the theories held have no irrefutable criteria to offer for the existence of quark plasma, as Stock freely admits. Furthermore, thousands of photos taken in the measuring chamber still await tedious evaluation by research assistants. The automation of this work is the next point on the programme. This is why the prize money awarded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has come at the right time for Stock. "The Leibniz Prize is a wonderful present. It will allow me to plan more flexibly and unhurriedly."

By Valerie Yearwood

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica's chaotic public transport service may at last be getting a new look.

At the end of last year the government slapped a ban on smoking, eating and drinking on the "minibuses" that roar and jostle their way through Kingston. It has also barred drivers from playing loud music.

The new Transport Minister, Bobby Pickersill, has endorsed a crackdown.

"He has warned drivers and bus-owners that the People's National Party (PNP), which won the Feb. 9 general election, will not tolerate the return of music to the over-crowded buses."

"Yes, we say that we put people first," he said, recalling the PNP's new campaign slogan. "But that does not mean that they should break the law of the society, and this government will not allow that to happen."

Under the new regulations, bus operators will also have to issue tickets to paying passengers, drivers must keep a logbook, and route and time-table information must be prominently displayed.

It has taken more than a decade for the Transport Ministry to put the brakes on the rough-and-tumble private transport system.

It was in the mid-1970s that the "minibuses" — which, despite their name, can comfortably seat as many as 28 people and accommodate a dozen standing — began to encroach on the routes plied by state buses.

They came fully into their own when the previous Edward

Seaga government closed the loss-making Jamaica Omnibus Service (JOS).

JOS routes were franchised to private operators, who further sub-franchised them.

But bus operators have come under fire because of loud music, racing on the roads, a refusal to transport schoolchildren at a lower rate, and the ill manners of some crews.

Still, the government's clamp-down has had a mixed reception. Several young Jamaicans have complained about the noise abatement regulation, suggesting

that those who don't like loud music should pick quieter buses.

Several bus crews also say that having music on the vehicles and giving them an attractive paint job and accessories were part of the lure in the highly competitive transport sector.

But radio talk-show host, Neville James, agrees with the government's ruling that "all noise-making devices will have to be removed from the buses."

James complained: "Often you can hear the music before you can hear the engine of the buses."

He said the music was usually so loud as to render conversation impossible or cause a hearing injury.

Some Jamaicans who don't like the music said they would be happy to take other buses, but that with the overcrowded system there was not much freedom of choice.

However, improvements are on the way, with 50 new 45-seat Mercedes-Benz buses from Brazil worth 12 million Jamaican dollars (nearly \$2.2) due early this year. A leader in the previous government has said that Jamaica decided to import the vehicles from Brazil because they were "made to first world specifications but sold at Third World prices."

In November, Jamaica also signed a contract to import 90 buses from India.

Other welcome news is that the accident rate has dropped by 60 per cent since the strict regulations for public transport vehicles were introduced.

This has been welcomed by insurance companies, some of which had threatened to withdraw coverage of public transport vehicles because of the high accident rate. — *Panos*



Jamaican passengers wait for the promised cleaner, quieter and less crowded bus service.

Moral decline and apathy behind the iron curtain

By Michael Wise Reuter

PRAGUE — AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is used as a metaphor for moral decay and sloth in Czechoslovakia in a new film by once-banned filmmaker Vera Chytilova.

A splash of blood is depicted on a poster outside the cinema in Prague's Wenceslas square where "a tainted horseplay," said to be the first film in the East Bloc about AIDS, had its premiere this month. The poster describes the film as "a tragicomic of three friends fatally threatened by AIDS."

"For me it is a film about threat and menace," said Chytilova.

The three male protagonists go through a whirl of sexual antics, sleeping with one another's girlfriends amid scenes of corruption and intellectual dishonesty until

one comes down with the AIDS virus.

"What can you do expect have fun in this corrupted jungle?" asks one of the men, voicing a resigned attitude common among many of his compatriots, who have focused on private pursuits since their hopes of political involvement were dashed by the 1968 Soviet-led invasion.

Czechoslovaks have long had liberal attitudes to sex. "It used to be said that when there was a blackout, children would be born nine months later. A certain darkness can cause many things," Chytilova said of the invasion's impact.

"We are finding out that there is not enough space (here) for the development of personality and this leads to moral deformations," she told reporters during an interview.

"People cannot really apply

their talents. Certainly one has internal freedom but it is the freedom in decision-making that's important. One should be able to decide one's own destiny."

In "a tainted horseplay" moral decline and apathy affect much more than just the sexual realm.

Those who obey

A bookkeeper takes bribes to ignore graft, a theatre director bows to censorship and a Communist Party candidate member, echoing party chief Milos Jakes, presses his colleagues to work harder while offering little in return.

"It's not only Mr. Jakes but other people who say the same thing," Chytilova, 60, said. "They've been telling us that for decades. We all know we should work harder but we work less because we underestimate the

meaning of work.

"We don't see the results. We see irresponsibility and we don't see people who make errors being punished. So in a sense everything is allowed, everything is possible."

Chytilova wears oversized spectacles on a face of beauty recalling her early work as a fashion model.

She was one of the most innovative figures to emerge from the so-called new wave of Czechoslovak film in the 1960s, alongside Oscar-winning Jiri Menzel and Milos Forman.

Chytilova was barred from filmmaking for six years after 1968 because her previous films were regarded as promoting the Prague spring reform movement.

Unlike Forman and other colleagues who fled to the West, Chytilova chose to stay in her homeland. Many who did were

forced to repudiate their earlier films.

Chytilova would not recant. Since her 1976 return to the screen she has continued to make unconventional movies that challenge the way Czechoslovaks look at their world.

"When (in 1968) we firmly believed that what we did was important because we could influence people, change their morality through our films. We shook hands with the audiences."

"But afterwards it became determined (from above) what can and cannot be said. The real problems were considered anti-Socialist. I never agreed with that and always argued that the only good films are involved films presenting real problems."

AIDS has killed three Czechoslovaks, 115 are infected and nine are acutely ill, according to official figures. About half those

infected are homosexual or bisexual. The number of cases is expected to rise over the next few years.

"The problem is underestimated here because we're not threatened by it that much yet," said Chytilova. "I wanted to make a warning. But I also wanted to show that the roots of the problem are somewhere else."

Chytilova is one of some 3,000 intellectuals and artists who signed a petition demanding the release of jailed playwright Vaclav Havel and calling on the authorities to begin a dialogue on political reform.

She has been able to broach many of the film's broader themes because of a limited degree of openness granted by the conservative Communist leadership, which has resisted more far-reaching reforms under way.

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Iraq resumes petroleum exports from southern port

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has started regular exports of petroleum products from its southern port of Khor Al Zubair, the oil ministry said Monday.

A ministry spokesman, who was not identified, said the petroleum products were surplus products from the nearby Basra refinery.

The exports mark the first significant Iraqi oil shipments through the Gulf since the war with Iran broke out in September 1980.

Khor Al Zubair, which was reopened after the Aug. 20 ceasefire agreement with Iran halted fighting in the Gulf war, is linked to the Khar Abdullah waterway that runs into the northern Gulf west of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf.

The Basra refinery, heavily damaged during the eight-year-old Gulf war, resumed partial operations last month after repairs.

The refinery, which had a pre-war capacity of 110,000 barrels a day, is currently producing an estimated 40,000 barrels a day. This is expected to rise to around 70,000 barrels a day soon.

The spokesman did not say what kinds of petroleum products have been exported, but they are believed to be fuel oil and lubricants. Volume is estimated at

around 30,000-35,000 barrels a day.

The exports are carried in small shuttle tankers to the Jebel Ali storage complex in Dubai in the southern end of the Gulf, where they will be loaded onto bigger tankers for shipment abroad.

Iraq also announced Monday that the \$150 million project to build 10 new jetties at the southern port of Um Qasr will be completed by July.

The Shatt Al Arab, the southern boundary between Iraq and Iran, remains closed because of a dispute between the two countries over navigation rights, a problem that has helped deadlock peace talks.

Large tankers are not able to load at Khor Al Zubair because of the shallow waters.

Iraq began irregular small-scale petroleum exports from its Gulf ports immediately after ceasefire took effect, with tankers of around 20,000 tonnes ferrying exports to Jebel Ali.

Iraq's Gulf tanker routes were closed early in the war. That seriously impaired Iraq's vital oil exports, its economic mainstay.

But Baghdad got around the

problem by building pipelines through neighbouring Turkey and Saudi Arabia. It also trucked oil exports through Jordan, to the port of Aqaba, and through Turkey.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi said last month that the volume trucked overland will depend on the amount exported through the Gulf.

Respecting quota

The minister also affirmed that Iraq is strictly abiding by its OPEC production quota despite increased oil output capacity.

"We affirm our full commitment to the OPEC accord although Iraq's oil production and export capacity is steadily increasing," the United Arab Emirates newspaper, Al Itihad quoted him as saying.

Chalabi did not elaborate on the increased output capacity. OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) gave Iraq a quota of 2,640 million barrels per day (b/d) for the first six months of 1989.

Output below ceiling

Meanwhile crude oil supply by 12 of the 13 OPEC member states was below their combined quota ceiling in February, the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The weekly newsletter said an OPEC committee which met in Vienna last week concluded that supply by the 12 amounted to 17,433 million b/d compared with a limit for the 12 of 17,512 million.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which did not send a representative to the meeting or submit any figures, was not included in the survey, MEES said.

In November OPEC set an output ceiling of 18.5 million b/d for all 13 members for the first half of 1989.

Supply is calculated by adding domestic consumption to net export sales and stock withdrawals. The newsletter put total OPEC supply during the month at 18,938 million b/d after adding its own estimate of 1.5 million b/d for the UAE.

The UAE quota is 988,000 b/d. The figures are well below estimates for total OPEC output in February made by major oil companies. A Reuters survey for the month put total OPEC output at 19.65 million b/d.

Of the 12 states in the OPEC survey, only Ecuador was well over its quota of 230,000 b/d with output put at 290,000, MEES said.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, was right on quota at 4,524 million b/d.

China premier admits mistakes in reforms, promises austerity

PEKING (R) — Premier Li Peng opened the annual session of parliament Monday, admitting mistakes in China's reform programme and promising several years of austerity to correct them.

But his unusually frank remarks went unheard by the architect of the 10-year-old reforms, 84-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping, who did not attend the meeting.

"We... had shortcomings and mistakes in our guidance," Li said. "Generally there was a tendency to be too impatient for quick results in economic and social development."

Li spoke to nearly 3,000 delegates to the National People's Congress in the cavernous Great Hall of the People in the heart of Peking.

Deng's right-hand man, Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, sat on the podium, occasionally marking his copy of the premier's speech.

Zhao has come under criticism for his handling of the economy, taking the blame for bank runs, panic buying and the worst inflation since the communists seized power in 1949.

An austerity programme was

imposed last September to cut government spending and cool the overheated economy but inflation still reached 18.5 per cent and soared to more than 30 per cent in cities.

Li said the austerity policy, which he has spearheaded, was correct but results so far fell "far short of the goal of improvement and rectification."

"Both government and people should be mentally prepared for a few years of austerity," he said.

The 60-year-old leader, a Soviet-trained technocrat, promised tougher controls on prices

and tighter credit to halt official overspending.

Diplomats called the prescription "a complete absence of new reform direction."

"The theme was more control, more regulation," said a Western diplomat, though an East European envoy described it more charitably as realistic.

Li called for a continued opening to the West, a key part of the reform programme, underscoring the need for foreign capital and technology and praising an improvement in Sino-U.S. economic and trade ties.

Mexican government to retain oil sector

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) — Mexico has no intention of relinquishing state control over the country's oil industry, which in 1988 provided almost half the government's total income, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari has said.

The government "will maintain not only the property but also the control of this strategic industry," Salinas said in a ceremony marking the 51st anniversary of the expropriation of the Mexican oil industry.

Salinas's remarks were an apparent bid to refute reports that his government was planning to privatise parts of state oil firm Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) following the dramatic arrest of the leaders of the country's powerful oil workers union in January.

"Petroleos Mexicanos is the nation's and will continue to be in

order that it always serve the people of Mexico," Salinas said. Mexico, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, continues to rely heavily on petroleum to finance government operations, despite recent efforts to diversify the country's economy in the wake of falling international oil prices.

Pemex Director-General Francisco Rojas said the company provided 46 per cent of the government's total income in 1988. Union leader Joaquin Hernandez Galicia has said his arrest with more than 40 other union officials in January on arms stockpiling and murder charges was caused by his objections to what he said were Salinas government plans to break up Pemex.

Pemex has said that Mexico's petroleum reserves dropped by two per cent over the past year as exploration for new oilfields lag-

ged behind production. Reserves also declined after Mexico decided not to open new oilfields to production because of low world market prices, Pemex said in its annual report.

Pemex placed Mexico's total liquid hydrocarbon reserves, which include crude oil and condensates, at 67.6 billion barrels as of Jan. 1.

Crude oil production remained steady at an average of 2,506 million barrels a day, the maximum allowed under Mexico's fuel conservation laws. Natural gas production also held steady at 3.478 million cubic feet daily over the 12-month period, the report said.

Exports of crude averaged 1,307 million barrels per day and \$12.24 a barrel, netting \$5,855 billion and accounting for about one-third of Mexico's total export revenues for the year, the report

said. Mexico exported oil to 20 countries, nearly half the crude sold abroad went to the United States, making Mexico that country's sixth-largest supplier.

In addition to its traditional heavy Maya and light Isthmus grades, Mexico began exporting small quantities of an extra-light crude called Olmeque, high-octane gasoline and other refined products in 1988, the report said.

Pemex netted a profit of \$3,885 billion on its foreign sales over the year, the report said. Pemex drilled 33 exploratory and 111 development wells, 87 of which were productive. But instead of pushing for new fields, the monopoly concentrated on an industrialisation programme, the report said.

Production of 46 petrochemicals increased by 12 per cent, to 15,462 million tons, it said.

Iranian parliament approves \$140b budget

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Iranian parliament Monday ratified a \$140 billion budget on the last day of the Iranian calendar, Tehran radio reported.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said that the budget was approved by parliament and ratified by the Guardian Council which vets all parliamentary bills to determine whether they comply with Islam and the constitution.

The Guardian Council made some amendments to the budget and dropped other items from the budget because they did not comply, the radio said. It did not detail changes.

Approval followed twelve days of lengthy debates. Earlier this month the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, reported that a \$123.7 billion

budget had been "approved in principle" by the parliament. But no explanation was given either by the radio or IRNA about the \$17 billion increase in the budget announced Monday.

A newspaper report published in January by the Farsi language Resalat Daily revealed a secret amendment contained in the budget, but gave no details about what the amendment was.

However, the report denounced the country's domestic debt, blaming it for the country's soaring inflation and for cash flow problems in the private sector.

The Mujahedeen Khalq (People's Holy Warriors), the largest

Iranian opposition group, claimed in a report teleaxed from its headquarters in Baghdad that it had obtained a copy of the confidential budget bill.

According to the report, government expenditures far outweigh revenues.

The resistance group said the budget anticipated a total revenue of \$45 billion in the coming year, while expenditure is planned at \$61 billion, leaving a shortfall of \$16 billion.

The report said that if domestic borrowing from the central bank is taken into account, the deficit almost doubles to \$35 billion.

The shortfall, the report

claimed, is due to the government's concentration on military buildup at the expense of other sectors of the economy.

Allocations to the ministry of defence, and the parliamentary Guard Corps account for more than \$8.5 billion, more than seven per cent of the total budget, the report claimed, adding that these figures do not represent the total allocations to defence.

Following the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, Tehran has been claiming that its priorities lie in reconstruction of vast sectors of the economy destroyed by the war.

On Saturday, parliament approved the state-run central bank to borrow up to \$1 billion to be spent on power generation provided that repayment of the loan does not exceed \$150 million annually, Tehran radio reported earlier.

The report did not specify who the bank could borrow from, but due to the emphasis on favourable terms of borrowing, it is believed that the money will be sought abroad.

Fresh whiff of inflation sends stocks down around the world

LONDON (R) — A whiff of inflation sent world stock markets further into decline Monday as investors sold shares in readiness to take quick advantage of any new interest rates rises, dealers said. (See world stock markets below).

On Friday, Wall Street dived nearly 50 points after Washington said U.S. wholesale prices rose one per cent in February, the same as in January and almost double what economists had expected.

A further rise in U.S. inflation on top of Friday's wholesale price data could jolt the markets by paving the way for tighter credit

in the United States. Higher oil prices are also stoking concern about inflation.

"The U.S. poses the biggest threat to (share) prices at the moment," said one London share dealer.

"If consumer prices leap then we could be back in the realm of higher international interest rates, particularly if the Fed (Federal Reserve) moves the Fed funds rate up," he added.

Higher interest rates invariably lure funds from stocks and into interest-bearing accounts. It was higher interest rates 17 months ago which contributed to the flight out of shares that became

known as the "Crash of '87." Share analysts, however, were quick to rule out any resemblance between current share weakness and the events of so-called "black Monday" when stock markets collapsed.

The spotlight was on how United States markets would perform, dealers said. Tokyo unsettled Europe with a 366.21-point fall in the Nikkei average to 31,654.80 points. Tokyo is closed on Tuesday for the spring Equinox holiday.

The market assumption is that inflation will prompt higher U.S. interest rates boosting the dollar. But some traders say concern over the costs of supporting U.S.

savings and loan organisations and worries about provoking a recession could mean a delayed Fed reaction.

"The dollar is still pretty strong but there is a feeling it's a bit overbought," said Brad Biggs, chief spot dealer at Nomura International Bank in London.

The likelihood major central banks would meet any dollar rally with concerted intervention was an additional incentive to take some profits from last week's bull run, traders said.

Gold firmed in fairly quiet business. Often hulkish benefits from inflation fears as investors but it as a hedge.

Argentina declares debt 'unpayable'

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Argentina's foreign debt is "absolutely unpayable" and the country won't even try to reduce its back payments until after national elections May 11, central bank president Jose Luis Machinea said.

"We made a payment of \$270 million during the last four months of 1988," Machinea said in an interview published Sunday by the newspaper "Pagina 12."

"That was the last that we paid, and we're not able to pay anything more until after the elections," he said. "After the election, whoever is elected will have to discuss a common strategy," with creditor banks.

Argentina's nearly \$59 billion debt is third-highest among developing countries. Its payments on the principal amounts of the loans has been deferred, but it owes \$6 billion in interest this year.

The country currently owes

\$2.5 billion in back interest payments to commercial banks, Machinea told the newspaper. The level of foreign reserves in the South American country's central bank is rarely disclosed officially. Private bankers estimate the level at about \$2 billion.

"The debt is absolutely unpayable, both the interest and the capital," Machinea said in an interview conducted while he was in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to participate in a seminar called, "Foreign Debt and the Development of Latin America."

Argentina's policy under President Raul Alfonsin has been to pay one-half of the interest it owes from the country's balance of trade surplus, and borrow more money to pay the rest. Interest payments owed this year amount to almost twice the projected \$3.5 billion trade surplus.

At the time of Alfonsin's election in October 1983, the country

owed about \$43 billion. Most of the approximately \$16 billion debt taken on since then has gone to pay interest rather than to investment designed to generate capital.

The government last year received a \$1.2 billion loan from the World Bank, but failed to persuade commercial banks to provide \$3 billion in new loans, or the International Monetary Fund to provide \$1.25 billion.

Part of the World Bank funds have been held up because the country failed to meet economic-austerity targets such as reducing its budget deficit and reforming banking regulations to reduce deficits at the central bank.

Alfonsin has complained publicly and bitterly as interest rates have soared. He indicated in a recent speech that the central bank would not clear up its back interest payments until creditor banks provided fresh loans.

Last week, Argentina came

close to having its status declared as "value impaired" by the credit risk committee of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. That classification would have made it even more difficult for the country to arrange new loans.

Creditor banks privately have accepted the government's position that it cannot make debt payments until after the election, and won't penalise Argentina, Machinea said in the newspaper interview.

The issue has come up in the campaigns for president, but neither the ruling Radical Civic Union nor the opposition Peronist Party has made it a central theme.

Both would like a grace period of several years during which neither interest nor principal would be paid. Both have declared they would not unilaterally implement a moratorium on such payments.

Study finds low savings rate biggest U.S. economic problem

WASHINGTON (AP) — An alarming decline in the national savings rate is the biggest economic problem facing the United States and the chief cause of its huge trade deficit, according to a private report.

The report, by the private American Business Conference, said that while the government's huge budget deficits have contributed to the problem, the decline primarily has been caused by high consumption by individuals.

"This overconsumption is financed through large-scale sales of U.S. assets to foreigners at unfavourable terms, a process that postpones the day of reckoning but that increasingly mortgages the U.S. economic future," the report said.

It said the decline in national savings also heightens the risk of recession and ultimately leads to slower growth in the standard of living.

Overall, national savings — the difference between the nation's output in goods and services and what is consumed by government, and individuals — fell from 7.9 per cent in the 1970s to 2.1 per cent during 1985-87, the study found.

Over the same period, individuals' consumption of goods and services rose from 69.3 per cent of national income to 74.1 per cent.

The increase in personal consumption was attributed largely to growth in disposable income, a

rise in household wealth that exceeded the increase in national wealth, the maturing of the population to ages above 16, when spending is higher, and the spending of equity that was converted to cash in corporate takeovers and buyouts.

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Chairman George Hosiopoulos, lead author of the report, noted that even sophisticated managers will increase their spending after receiving a hefty bonus and then find themselves "in a cash-flow bind and have to borrow to make ends meet" if there is not a comparable bonus the next year.

The report said the tendency to spend what is on hand is highlighted when people receive unexpected lumps of cash from their stock investments when they are paid premiums in the course of corporate buyouts.

The report's authors said action on three fronts is necessary to boost the national savings rate from a low point that is unprecedented for a period of economic expansion, not only for the United States but for all industrialised countries:

— Reducing the federal deficit. Cutting government spending on goods and services is the most direct approach, although raising taxes and thus lowering private consumption would help to a lesser degree, the report said.

— Improved incentives for private saving. The report said a campaign "to promote savings

and issuing 'supersaver' bonds to encourage households to save for the long run could bolster the falling private saving rate."

— Eliminating incentives for corporate buyouts. The report

said the federal tax structure should be revised to eliminate incentives for corporate debt and thus reduce the trend toward higher cash payouts to shareholders.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, March 20, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	84.7	85.5
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	407.7	411.9
Pound Sterling	920.8	929.3	Dutch guilder	254.2	258.5
Deutschemark	286.7	289.5	Swedish crown	84.0	84.8
Swiss franc	352.8	356.3	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.4
			Belgian franc (for 100)	137.0	138.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7130/40	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1940/50	Canadian dollar
	1.8745/52	Deutschemark
	2.1150/60	Dutch guilders
	1.6150/60	Swiss francs
	39.24/27	Belgian francs
	6.3450/500	French francs
	1375/1376	Italian lire
	131.75/85	Japanese yen
	6.4000/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8070/120	Norwegian crowns
	7.3070/120	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	395.00/395.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Overseas buying helped the markets to stabilise after a morning plunge of almost 15 points. Fears of an interest rate rise in Japan diminished and the All Ordinaries Index closed 12.1 points down at 1,484.2.

TOKYO — The Nikkei Index plunged 366.21 points — the biggest one-day drop this year — to close at 31,654.80 after Friday's dive on Wall Street.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index fell 90.21 points to 3,046.73. Inflationary worries continued to cast a pall over sentiment, brokers said.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Industrial Index lost 16.16 points to 1,171.37 before a computer fault brought trading to a standstill.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell on a broad front in active trading affected by end-of-account considerations, brokers said. The market will remain closed Wednesday for a Hindu festival.

FRANKFURT — German share prices recovered slightly from their opening lows on the Frankfurt bourse but closed sharply below Friday's levels. The Real-Time Dax Index closed 19.33 lower at 1,303.36.

ZURICH — Swiss share prices closed lower across the board in moderate trading following Wall Street's sharp losses Friday. The All Share Swiss Index fell 17.4 to 1,494.9.

PARIS — French share prices ended easier after a day of thin trading within a narrow price range but were above the lows plucked at the session's start. The 50-share price indicator closed down 0.79 pct being off 1.17 pct.

LONDON — Equities stood near their lows in late trade with the much as expected easier opening on Wall Street failing to have much impact on sentiment. By 1530 GMT, the fse 100 was down 18.1 to 2,055.0.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks remained steady at moderately lower levels as selling from Friday let up. However, traders said a continuing rise in T-bill rates discouraged buying. The Dow fell 15 to 2,279.

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NBA rookies more broken than made

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Basketball Association's rookie class of 1988-89 will be remembered more for breaking down than breaking in.

No. 1 pick Danny Manning averaged 16.7 points in 26 games for the Los Angeles Clippers before suffering a serious knee injury. He is among four Olympians, all first-round draft choices, who have missed significant playing time with illness and injuries this year.

Milwaukee's Jeff Grayer, Dan Majerle of Phoenix and Charles Smith of the Clippers also have been on the injury list for much of the season, while Charlotte's Rex Chapman and Sylvester Gray of Miami have spent significant time on the sidelines as well.

But the long list of casualties has not left the NBA devoid of new talent, including some virtual unknowns before the season.

The star of the group is yet another Olympian, Mitch Richmond, a key factor in the Golden State Warriors' quick turnaround from doormats to strong playoff contenders.

With a 20.8 scoring average, Richmond could become the first rookie of the year to come from a winning team since Buck Williams of the New Jersey Nets, who were 44-38 when he won the award in 1982.

In fact, only three of the 15 players on the all-Rookie teams the last three years came from winning teams. They were Derrick McKey with Seattle last season, Roy Tarpley of Dallas in 1986-87 and Joe Dumars of Detroit in 1985-86.

"We knew Mitch had star potential when we drafted him (fifth in the first round)," Warriors coach Don Nelson said.

"But we've been surprised that he's been so good so early in his career. The best thing I can say about Mitch is that he knows he still has a lot to learn. He is the kind of player who will try to improve as his career continues."

"Richmond is an outstanding rookie," added former Portland coach Mike Schuler. "When (Nelson) says he's like Sidney Moncrief, no higher compliment can be paid."

While most of the rookies getting significant playing time logically come from weak teams, a few first-year players are joining Richmond in doing well for winning clubs.

Chief among these is Philadelphia's Hersey Hawkins, who has shored up the woefully weak shooting guard position for the 76ers, averaging 15.4.

Rod Strickland quickly established himself as Mark Jackson's backup at point guard for the Atlantic division-leading New York Knicks. It's a role that gives him limited playing time, but he has made the most of it, averaging 28 points and 11 assists per 48 minutes.

"Rod has the quickest hands I've seen on the press in a long time," Knicks coach Rick Pitino said. "He reminds me of Michael Jordan the way he plays the passing lanes."

Not surprisingly, rookies get plenty of chance to develop on expansion teams, especially the Miami Heat, which won four games in the first half of the season, then needed only 11 games to win four more times.

Of the five Miami players with the most minutes, three of them are rookies, Kevin Edwards, Rony Seikaly and Grant Long.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jahangir beats Jansher to win Spanish Open

MADRID (R) — World champion Jahangir Khan of Pakistan crushed his compatriot and great rival Jansher Khan 15-10, 15-12, 15-7 to win the Spanish Open squash tournament Sunday. Jahangir was on his best creative and attacking form and left Jansher little chance to play his characteristic game of retrieving everything and wearing his opponent down. A crucial point came at 11-11 in the second game, when the referee awarded a point to Jahangir which apparently demoralized Jansher. Jahangir stormed through the last game in just 19 minutes. "Jahangir is enjoying a very good patch," said Jansher. "My aim is to beat him in the British Open."

Bullets win 10th game at home

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernard King scored 31 points Saturday as the Washington Bullets extended their home winning streak to 10 games with a 123-114 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. John Williams scored 22, Mark Alarie 17 and Steve Colter 16 for the Bullets, who are battling Philadelphia and Boston for the final two playoff berths in the Eastern Conference. Philadelphia trailed 62-57 at halftime, and couldn't get any closer than three points in the second half. Charles Barkley and Hersey Hawkins scored 24 points each for led Philadelphia, although Barkley was only 7-of-20 from the field. Chuck Person scored 11 of his 30 points in the fourth period as the Indiana Pacers broke a four-game losing streak, beating the Chicago Bulls 114-103. Otis Thorpe scored 25 points and Sleepy Floyd had 17 points and 17 assists to lead the Houston Rockets to a 127-113 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Americans win 'survival' ski races

CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado (AP) — Kristin Krone and Tommy Moe, two of the United States' most promising young ski racers, captured super Giant Slalom titles Sunday in the weather-plagued U.S. Alpine ski championships. A snowstorm battered Crested Butte throughout the day, limiting visibility and creating a condition called flat light, in which skiers have difficulty discerning undulations in the terrain. Krone, 20, won the women's race, which had to be restarted after the first three racers flew off a jump and lost control. Gates were re-set in that troublesome area, and Krone flashed across in 1 minute, 39.03 seconds, 44-hundredths of a second ahead of Hilary Lindh. It was Krone's first national title. In the men's Super-G earlier in the day, Moe, 19, earned his second medal of the championships, beating Kyle Rasmussen by 69-hundredths of a second.

Liverpool to meet Forest in action replay

LONDON (R) — Liverpool and Nottingham Forest were drawn Monday to meet in an English F.A. Cup semifinal that will be an action replay of their clash at the same stage last year. A year ago two John Aldridge goals gave Liverpool a 2-1 win but they were then beaten by Wimbledon in the final. This time, with Forest unbeaten in 18 games and Liverpool having won five in a row, there are no easy predictions about the rematch. In the other semifinal Everton will take on the winners of Wednesday's quarter-final replay between Norwich and West Ham, who drew 0-0 Saturday. The draw is an extra incentive to West Ham, who beat Everton in the semifinals on their way to winning the cup in 1980.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be certain that you give as much as you receive and show the proper gratitude for favors. Avoid taking others for granted. Evening hours are temperamental as full moon energy builds.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Emotions dominate the day. You may be the victim of someone's moodiness. Domestic adjustments turn out satisfactory.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Flirtation may be just the beginning of something wonderful. You must initiate as well as respond to keep the ball rolling.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): If you exaggerate a story too far you may get caught. Don't confuse your creative ability when composing a great story with reality.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Take a chance while Cupid is on your side. When your heart beats faster, you withdraw from the love arena shunning yourself off.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Someone has information that he is withholding. Financial news is not up to expectations, but is better than a month ago.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Your present situation is draining you emotionally and financially. Back up a bit and reappraise time and resources. Balance the budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Starting over, and over, and over, can be as boring as sitting it out. You learn the lesson if you stay put and study the matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Look into a legal matter that can be brought to a successful conclusion. Speculation, chances or risk-taking should be avoided.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A frugal outlook now will save enough for a vacation. Someone's own jealousy may be the cause of their cautions and warnings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Your curiosity regarding different financial matters is on target. Check, analyze and get expert opinion. Lock in on your side.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Unexpected good news arrives. Your roaming eyes could settle on a new romantic friend. Try a new and interesting format.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Beating on the war drums will not solve the matter to your satisfaction. You could be putting too much effort into trying to force peace.

Graf loses first set of the year

Mecir wins from 2 sets down

INDIAN WELLS (R) — Miloslav Mecir came back from two sets down to beat a hard-serving Yannick Noah 3-6, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 Sunday in the final of the \$702,500 Indian Wells Grand Prix tennis tournament.

The 12th-seeded Noah, who pounded in 22 aces against his seventh-seeded opponent, double-faulted at match point to end the contest after nearly three hours.

Mecir collected \$135,000 for his victory, while Noah received half that amount as runner-up.

"I thought he already had me but I just didn't want to give it up," said Mecir. "I was mixing it up a little too much but then I realized it was better if I was attacking more."

Noah, a four-time finalist here and champion in 1982, began dynamically with his serve-and-volley game in high gear.

Riding his blazing serve, Noah raced through the opening two sets and easily dominated a sleepy-looking Mecir.

But the Czechoslovak turned the momentum around in the first game of the third set as he began to come to the net more often.

He saved three break points

against him and went on to break the Frenchman twice with passing shots to clinch the set 6-1.

A brilliant lob gave Mecir a break for 2-1 in the fourth set and he broke Noah again for 4-1 on a passing shot as he evened that best-of-five match at two sets apiece.

The Frenchman seemed to regain his drive in the fifth set, but his surge was halted when Mecir made another service break in the fifth game with a blazing backhand crosscourt return.

Mecir held easily to reach 5-3 and then broke Noah for the match when the double fault.

Mecir's change of tactics, from groundstrokes to serve-and-volley, did not surprise Noah.

"When I was up two sets I was expecting him to do something different," Noah said. "He started to play totally different tennis. What makes his game special is that he can do a lot of

different things. He can adjust his game."

Noah said that lack of conditioning let him down.

"When I'm tired I'm not as quick," said Noah, who rested his sore knees and took his two children to Disneyland rather than practice before the tournament.

"I was a little slow and tired and my game requires more energy than his because his technique is better."

Graf beats Evert

BOCA RATON (R) — Steffi Graf won her fourth straight tournament and extended her 1989 unbeaten streak to 22 matches with a hard-fought win over Chris Evert in the final of the Florida tennis championship.

Graf, after losing her first set of the year, bounced back to beat Evert 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 and claim the \$60,000 first prize.

Evert settled for \$24,000 and missed an opportunity to reclaim her world number three ranking from Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who moved up two weeks ago.

A win would have moved Evert past Sabatini, a third-round loser

here.

Graf, whose 1989 title include the Australian Open, was bothered by Evert's strategy as the American veteran took pace off her shots and hit the ball down the middle of the court.

Evert won the first set by converting her second break point of the set in the seventh game when Graf, who double-faulted twice in that game, netted a forehand with a sizzling backhand from Evert.

The West German broke quickly in the second game of the second set to lead 2-0 as Evert began to make more unforced errors. She broke again in the eighth game when Evert netted two backhands after double-faulting.

The two traded service breaks at love in the opening game of the third set and worked their way to the eighth game on serve when Evert let a 40-15 lead slip away and Graf won the final eight points of the match.

Graf now leads Evert in career meetings.

"I'm satisfied to win the match. I didn't feel as good as the last days. I didn't have the feeling usually do, but I don't know why," Graf said.

Grand Prix: '89 heralds post-turbo era

LONDON (R) — One feature is likely to remain unchanged when a new era of Formula One motor racing dawns in Brazil next Sunday — the dominance of world champion Ayrton Senna and his McLaren team-mate Alain Prost.

After winning a record 15 of last year's 16 Grands Prix, the Honda-powered McLaren team set the pace again in winter and pre-season testing.

Their V10 normally-aspirated 3.5 litre engine, produced to conform to new regulations banning turbos, has already completed more than 3,000 km in preparation for what promises to be a hectic and exciting world championship.

For though McLaren, who have designed a new car for 1989, appear to have retained a decisive advantage with their 'dream team' of Brazilian Senna, Frenchman Prost and the Japanese Honda engines, the banishment of the turbos should ensure closer racing.

The change in regulations means every car will run with an atmospheric engine — the vast majority of them derived from Ford's long-serving Cosworth unit — and concentrate on performance instead of fuel capacity and boost restrictions.

Cars will no longer be able to stay in command of a race through efficient use of fuel and well-timed applications of turbo-boost. There will be more onus on the drivers.

The return to normally-aspirated racing has led also to Pirelli's return as a Formula One tyre supplier and the revival of a 'rubber' war with Goodyear, the American company having enjoyed a monopoly for the last two years, and stimulated much driver and team activity.

Several leading drivers, including Briton Nigel Mansell, Thierry Boutsen of Belgium and Italy's

Michele Alboreto have switched allegiance and a record 39 cars have been entered for the 1989 championship by 20 teams.

This unprecedented crowding in the paddock will be partly eased by the reintroduction of a Friday morning pre-qualifying session when 13 cars will fight it out for the right to participate in official qualifying.

Only four will succeed in joining the 26 entrants guaranteed a qualifying place and the unlucky nine will be left with expensive bills to pay after a hasty departure.

Repeated failure to qualify is certain to test the patience of sponsors seeking at least a modicum of exposure during the serious business at each Grand Prix and many may be forced to with-

draw by the halfway mark in the season.

The calendar shows only one change. The United States Grand Prix will be run on the streets of Phoenix, Arizona, and out in Detroit. Phoenix has a five-year contract.

But with so many changes on and off the circuits, consistency, reliability and efficient teamwork will be important factors, particularly early in the season.

McLaren, with a chassis made from a new carbon-fibre material, are expected to set the standards as Prost attempts to regain ascendancy over Senna by winning his third world title this year.

McLaren have exclusive use of Honda's engines after sharing them with Lotus last year.

Ferrari, controlled by Fiat

under sports director Corrado Fiorio following the death of year of founder Enzo Ferrari, have been working feverishly to perfect a car, equipped with semi-automatic electronic gearbox.

Reports from testing have suggested the Ferrari's new V12 engine has been disappointing. Mansell and his Austrian team-mate Gerhard Berger have had problems with the gear system controlled by fingerplates behind the steering wheel.

There will be one new team — the British Ford-powered Onyx, who won the European Formula 3000 championship in 1987 — and nine new drivers, including Japan's 1988 Formula 3000 champion Aguri Suzuki with ZakSpeed.

Ngugi wants 10,000 m record

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — Kenya's John Ngugi plans to use his record fourth world cross-country title as a springboard to track success this season.

Ngugi is hoping a successful assault on the 10,000 metres world record this year — possibly at July's Bislett games in Oslo — will transform him from the cross-country cousin of athletics to track and field superstar.

The 27-year-old Nairobi soldier remains a less-than-familiar track name despite his Olympic 5,000 metres triumph in Seoul last September. But plans are under way to change all that.

His coach, Mike Kosgei, had said the seemingly invincible Ngugi was ready to quit cross-country to concentrate on developing his track career.

And after Ngugi had picked his way through the strength-sapping mud of Stavanger gold course Kosgei was adamant.

"After seeing his performance today, I believe John is ready to

break the 10,000 metres world record this summer," he said.

There can be little doubt the Kenyan is ready to dismantle the 10,000 metres mark of 27 minutes 13.81 seconds Portugal's Fernando Mamede set in 1984.

For Ngugi showed Sunday he is more than just a man capable of running fast over long distances through exhausting conditions.

For the first two kms of the 12 kms race, Ngugi languished well off the pace — at one stage by as much as 100 metres — as his fellow-Kenyan Andrew Masai strung out the field.

Slipping and sliding on a course reduced by heavy rain and three previous races to little more than a manicured bog, Ngugi coasted home a remarkable 28 seconds clear of second-placed Briton Tim Hutchings in 39 minutes 42 seconds.

It was the biggest winning margin in the history of the world championship.

Ngugi's usual loping style was

punctuated by frequent hops and skips as the Kenyan picked out the firmer ground underfoot.

Hutchings said: "I had to look out for every step on the course. If not, you'd step further backwards than forwards."

Ngugi is likely to seek a fifth triumph in Aix-Les-Bains, France, next year.

Annette Sergeant of France could also earn herself a place in history next year by becoming only the second woman to win more than two titles.

Sergeant is sure to take full advantage of home turf to chalk up her third win after recapturing the crown Sunday following her previous triumph in Warsaw in 1987.

Sergeant, who also finished third in 1986 and 1988, struck before halfway to leave Nadzheba Stepanova of the Soviet Union with the silver and Canadian Lynn Williams with the bronze.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TOO OBVIOUS TO SEE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 4 3 2
♥ K 7 5
♦ K 10
♣ A K J 6 2

EAST
♠ J 10 9 8 6
♥ J 8 6 4
♦ Q 10 3
♣ A Q 5

SOUTH
♠ A K Q
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 9 8 7 2
♣ J 8 3

The bidding: North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

In an attempt to make his contract on today's hand, declarer chose a not unreasonable line. He would have earned our sympathy for going down, were it not for the fact that he had a sure-trick line available.

South had plenty in reserve for his jump to two no trump, but it was not a bid we would have chosen! With so many prime cards, South should have first probed for a diamond fit because there could easily be slam in the hand. To make matters worse, South's play was even worse than his bidding.

After a spade lead, declarer could count seven fast tricks. He saw that two more could be developed if the club finesse were to work or, if it failed, if the suit were to divide evenly. So he won the first trick in hand and unsuccessfully finessed the jack of clubs.

East shifted to a low heart. Declarer again won in hand and went after the clubs. But the suit broke 4-2—according to the odds—and another heart from East meant that declarer could take no more than eight tricks.

Unfortunately for his side, declarer had tried to develop his second-best asset. Had he paid more attention to his holding, he might have seen that there was no way that he could be prevented from scoring three diamond tricks!

After winning the opening lead declarer should simply have led a diamond to the king. Even if East holds up, declarer continues with a diamond. East can win and shift to a heart. But declarer wins in hand and forces out the queen of diamonds. He still has a spade entry in hand to cash his diamond winners and make an overtrick.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 3-16



"I prepared a special vegetarian meal tonight — corn chips, onion dip and beer."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORDEN
ERECK
KLEREN
DRAFTI



THE FEAR THAT RELATIVES ARE COMING TO STAY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "_____"

Yesterday's Jumbles: PARCH EXOT AWHALE MINGLE
Answer: What tune did the teakettle whistle?—"HOME ON THE RANGE"

THE Daily Crossword by Donald Groat



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Game fish
2. Composed
3. Recipe word
4. Economist
5. Smith
6. Double curves
7. Lacerated
8. Chance
9. Lucifer
10. Kind of horse
11. Ingenious
12. Young year
13. Beta Kappa
14. Son of Jacob
15. Famed basilica
16. Parking for one
17. Hoof filler
18. Negative
19. For one's money
20. Commemorative
21. WW II town
22. Nuke public
23. Gey
24. Throat
25. Day
26. Goddess of agriculture
27. Wooden pin
28. Surface
29. Honest
30. Basra's land
31. Pilgrims
32. Grayish appearance
33. Aborigine of Japan
34. Park, Colo.
35. Square column
36. Speck
37. Upset
38. Sworn
39. Important part
40. Narrow passage
41. Whistle
42. Dilemma
43. Dilemma
44. Fragment
45. Equal
46. Sonny's ex
47. High abode
48. Undrained
49. Dance
50. Reddish heartbeats
51. Noun
52. Duffet
53. Title of address
54. Greeting
55. Catch eels
56. Boater
57. Able was
58. I saw
59. Elbe
60. Haruspex
61. Not clear
62. Dorothy's dog
63. Behind
64. Musical group
65. Carry on

Peanuts

MY DAD SAID HIS FIRST OWNER USED TO EAT TOAST FOR BREAKFAST EVERY DAY



HE'D BITE OFF A FEW CHUNKS, AND THEN GIVE MY DAD A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT WAS LEFT



MY DAD SAID IT WAS ALWAYS HIS DREAM TO SOMEDAY HAVE HIS OWN WHOLE SLICE OF TOAST.



Mutt'n' Jeff

OH BOY, PAY DAY! MY FIRST WEEK HERE!



YOUR SALARY IS YOUR PERSONAL BUSINESS AND SHOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANYONE



Don't worry, boss. I won't mention it to anyone. In just as much ashamed of it as you are.



Andy Capp

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, TREVOR, AFTER THAT LATE TACKLE OF ANDY'S THIS AFTERNOON?



TERRIBLE, FLO. COME IN AND I'LL TELL YOU—



YOU ASKED FOR IT, FLO—I'LL SEE YOU IN THE PUB



HE'S ONE OF THEM PEOPLE WHO NEVER KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING. YOU ASK HIM—



لبنات من اللبن

ARENA claims outright victory in Salvador poll

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A right-wing millionaire claimed outright victory Monday in El Salvador's presidential elections, overshadowed by fierce clashes between rebels and security forces and the deaths of three journalists.

"The tendency of the vote shows that we will win with more than 50 per cent," Alfredo Cristiani, presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) told reporters Sunday night as his supporters danced, chanted and clapped.

The military said 29 guerrillas, six soldiers and three civilians died in Sunday's election day fighting around the country, and 42 people were wounded. The capital was quiet early Monday.

Leftist guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, who called for a boycott of the polls but said they would not attack voters, said they killed or wounded 150 government soldiers.

Much of the country was without electricity due to bomb blasts and guerrilla sabotage. Turnout Sunday was reduced by a transport strike imposed by the guerrillas, who said the voting was a pretext for allowing the war to continue.

Cristiani said unofficial ARENA counts of 75 per cent of the votes cast showed he had 54 per cent. A candidate needs an absolute majority to avoid a run-off among Sunday's top two finishers.

"It makes me happy that the people should trust our party to let it govern for the next five years," Cristiani told a news conference.

Scattered official results showed Cristiani, ahead of his main rival, Fidel Chavez Mena of the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC).

PDC estimates were not available.

able. Guillermo Ungo, presidential candidate of the Democratic Convergence, which is allied to the guerrillas, said his counts showed he won between six and 13 per cent of the vote, according to districts.

ARENA, which has been linked to death squads, has promised tough measures to end a nine-year war in which 70,000 people have died. The popularity of outgoing President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who has cancer, has fallen due to his party's inability to end the war or stamp out corruption.

Cristiani said he would be willing to negotiate with guerrillas and would seek to raise living standards for El Salvador's 5.5 million population. The economy is currently propped up by more than a million dollars a day in U.S. aid.

The opposition portrays Cristiani, 41, as a puppet manipulated by extreme right-wingers in ARENA.

Three journalists and a television soundman were killed during the elections. Defence Minister Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova said he was ordering an investigation.

Dutch Television cameraman Cornel Lagrou was shot dead in eastern El Salvador Sunday.

Reporters working with him said he was shot by the army during clashes with guerrillas.

The journalists said an army helicopter followed and fired at their clearly-marked press car when they tried to take Lagrou to hospital.

WARINESS AND OBSTINACY — FMLN guerrillas (top) and a soldier on guard duty sharing similar qualities

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Greece opposition stages mass anti-Papandreou rally

ATHENS (AP) — More than 200,000 opposition New Democracy Party followers Sunday staged a rally in central Athens to protest the government's alleged involvement in a financial scandal.

Addressing the rally, party leader Constantine Mitsotakis called for the Socialist government to resign for humiliating Greece's international image and undermining democratic institutions.

"I accuse the premier of deceiving the Greek people with illusory visions and abusing their trust in him... by instituting a corrupt state," Mitsotakis said.

Premier Andreas Papandreou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) has come under heavy criticism for its handling of the Bank of Crete scandal in which the government has been accused of taking multi-million dollar payoffs.

Last Wednesday the left-wing parties also staged rallies in 32 cities and towns nationwide to protest the scandals and demand immediate elections.

In a festival-like atmosphere the crowd at Constitution Square in central Athens often interrupted their leader, shouting anti-

government slogans such as "Down with the PASOK thieves" and "People demand the truth."

Mitsotakis charged the premier was sinking the country in public debt and leading it "to a tragic dead-end."

He claimed victory was certain for his party in the June 19 elections because "this government of scandals, decay and corruption is an unburied corpse in the people's conscience."

Mitsotakis also attacked the draft electoral law, announced by the government last week, saying it would hinder his party from forming a self-sufficient government.

The new law, which provides for a sort of simple proportional representation system, will help small parties gain more seats in parliament as opposed to the current law which favours larger parties.

The Conservative leader charged that Papandreou has been terrorising the judicial system and the press in order to conceal the scandal instead of being sensitive enough to resign.

In the five months since the Bank of Crete scandal surfaced, eight cabinet members, including Papandreou's right-hand man,

Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas, have resigned or been fired.

A government reshuffle Friday, the 16th since the Socialists gained power in 1981, was apparently aimed at restoring public confidence in the scandal-plagued government.

Mitsotakis called the reshuffle "a belated carnival" attempted by Papandreou to divert attention from the scandal.

"Allegations of government complicity in the affair gained force two weeks ago following the publication of an interview with the former Bank of Crete chairman, George Koskotas, in the U.S. magazine Time."

Koskotas, who fled the country in November, is now being held in a U.S. jail awaiting a hearing on a Greek request for his extradition.

In the article Koskotas was quoted as saying that Papandreou and senior Socialist cadres had been behind the \$300-million swindle.

Papandreou, who said he would sue Time for defamation, has repeatedly denounced the scandal as an elaborate Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-backed plot to overthrow him and his government.

Japan's ruling party fights to regain popular support

TOKYO (AP) — The ruling Liberal Democratic Party pledged to reform Japanese politics and recapture popular support Monday, one day after two key regional elections indicated voter displeasure with the party that has led Japan for most of the postwar period.

Meanwhile, opposition party leaders charged the government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has lost its mandate to rule and stepped up demands for an early general election.

On Sunday, Liberal Democratic incumbent Takeshita narrowly defeated a communist candidate in a gubernatorial election in Chiba, Tokyo's eastern neighbour, while a socialist won a sweeping victory in the race for governor of Miyagi prefecture, 300 kilometres to the northeast.

"From now on our party will promote political reform and strive to revive the confidence of the people in government," Shintaro Abe, the Liberal Democrats' secretary general, said in a statement after the elections.

He said the narrow victory in Chiba was a sign that local residents were prepared to support a ruling party-backed candidate despite growing public distrust in the government because of a stock scandal.

In the final tally of the Chiba prefectural election, incumbent Governor Takeshi Numata, 66, garnered 971,687 votes, while Shoji Ishii, backed by the Japan Communist Party, came in a close second with 786,238 votes. In 1985, the prefecture, traditionally a conservative stronghold, elected Numata with 781,000 votes against 271,000 for his opponent, also a communist.

The Liberal Democrats, despite their name, are conservative.

In the Miyagi race, socialist Shuntaro Honma, 19, got 302,372 votes, compared with 140,979 for Seiki Suzuki, a conservative independent, and 125,016 for Yoshiaki Shoji, backed by the Communist Party.

Honma was favoured to win the governorship after the withdrawal of Liberal Democrat Kazuo Aichi, who admitted he

received more than seven million yen (\$60,000) from Recruit Company, the information conglomerate at the centre of the growing scandal.

Recruit officials reportedly offered hundreds of thousands of shares of a real-estate subsidiary to more than 150 influential people, including top politicians and businessmen. After the shares were offered for public trading in October 1986, the recipients were able to reap hefty profits.

Three cabinet ministers have resigned because of links to the scandal. Takeshita has acknowledged that an aide also purchased shares, but has denied any direct involvement of his own.

Following Sunday's elections, the Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition group, called for the dissolution of parliament and an early election to test public support for Takeshita's government.

Takeshita's popularity has plunged to an all-time low because of the scandal and an unpopular three per cent sales tax due to take effect April 1.

Swedish bugging scandal pits government against secret police

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish secret policemen believed senior figures in the ruling Social Democratic Party were in contact with terrorists, according to new revelations in the country's bugging scandal.

Furthermore, a series of often contradictory statements over the weekend has painted a picture of a secret police force in considerable disarray, with allegations that officers took initiatives without authority.

The government last Friday said it had uncovered a plot by officers of the SAPO security police to eavesdrop on Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori as part of the hunt for the murderer of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The officers were interested in Schori because of his contacts with a French professor of Kurdish studies, whom they believed may have been connected with the 1986 assassination of Palme, according to Swedish press reports.

Palme was shot by a lone gunman while walking home from a cinema. Police at the time were convinced that he was the victim of a political plot and focused their inquiries on a left-wing Kurdish organisation.

But the Kurdish theory later disintegrated and police are currently holding a 41-year-old Swede as the suspected murderer.

The decision to bug Schori appeared to have been taken without either the head of the secret police or the politicians responsible for overseeing its actions being consulted.

"There was no conceivable interest from the security police as an organisation to plan surveillance of Pierre Schori," said SAPO chief Sune Sandstrom, who called the deputy minister to apologise for the action of his men.

Schori was only partially mollified by the apology.

"The security police have to be able to do their job, but the fact that an irregular group within the service gathers information about citizens is scandalous," he said.

A series of revelations on bugging has shaken Sweden in the past two weeks. Numerous senior politicians, including Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, have said they suspected they were the subject of illegal eavesdropping.

Sandstrom said the decision to open a file on Schori was taken by an individual officer who did not clear it with him or log it in the SAPO diary.

The officer who opened the file said Sandstrom was lying. Walter Kego, who has since been moved to the regular police force, said he had informed both Sandstrom and the then justice minister in January 1988 of the suspicions against Schori.

Schori was one of Palme's closest aides and is considered a key figure in Swedish foreign policy relating to the Third World.

Roh shelves referendum

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo, resisting government hawks, Monday called off a referendum which many feared would provoke a constitutional crisis.

Roh said on national television he was indefinitely postponing the "interim assessment" he promised during the 1987 election campaign.

He said he feared radicals would try to exploit a vote to fan unrest. Right-wing members of the ruling camp had previously raised the so-called leftist threat to try to push the president into risking a national confidence vote.

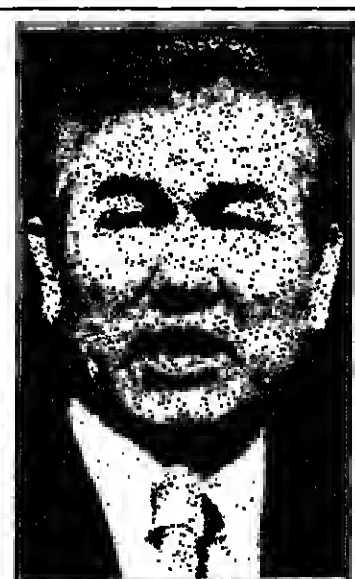
Perhaps surprisingly in view of this country's turbulent politics, the three opposition parties all issued statements approving the president's move.

Analysts said all three, while fearing a loss of their present majority position in the national assembly, were also genuinely concerned at the possibility of political tensions which could put at risk recent democratic reforms after years of army-backed strongman rule.

The extra-parliamentary opposition, however, remained combative. The main dissident coalition said Roh's decision "insulted our people" while radical students battled riot police in demonstrations in Seoul and the southeastern city of Kwangju.

Though the mainstream parties had already begun gearing up for the plebiscite, expected on or about April 12, the president Monday called a halt.

"Not a few have maintained that the authority of the president and the administration would be strengthened by winning a vote of



Roh Tae-Woo

confidence through a national referendum, even though this would entail some commotion," Roh said on television.

"However, I have come to the conclusion that such concern and anxiety must not be inflicted on the people, regardless of the outcome."

"It is my belief as president that, under no circumstance, should I do anything that would bring about divisiveness and confusion."

Last week a leading hawk in the cabinet, Government Administration Minister Kim Yong-Kap, resigned in an apparent bid to put pressure on Roh.

He said the president should use the referendum opportunity to crack down on radical students and dissidents and what he called "the menace of leftism."

His voice was countered by the country's most influential opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung, the veteran democracy campaigner who now heads the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

McFarlane mixes up script in contra trial

WASHINGTON (R) — The judge, the prosecutors, defence lawyers and even he courtroom artists at Oliver North's Iran-contra trial have had a hard time figuring out star witness Robert McFarlane.

In five days on the stand as a leading prosecution witness this past week, McFarlane, North's former boss on the National Security Council (NSC), contradicted himself so often that prosecutors decided he was helping the defence case more than theirs and tried to make him out to be a liar.

The defence, which might be expected to fear revelations from North's former superior, got a boost when McFarlane volunteered that he and not North was to blame for some key aspects of the Iran-contra scandal.

North, a key NSC aide when Ronald Reagan was president, is accused of 12 criminal charges related to secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels.

A keystone of his defence is that he was carrying out the orders of superiors, including Reagan. The prosecution had expected McFarlane to undercut that argument.

Frustrated judge

Judge Gerhard Gesell became so frustrated by McFarlane's meandering answers that he often broke in to question the witness himself.

Part of the problem is the way McFarlane talks.

Asked by the judge if he had sent a particular White House memorandum under discussion, the witness replied: "I don't be-

lieve that's what's being asked. And that's my question. Did I send it? I don't remember. I accept that I may have. The memo indicates that I did. I simply don't remember. But clearly I got the memo, I believe."

Asked about his own earlier guilty plea to four counts of lying to Congress, McFarlane said: "I felt quite passionately about the fact that I had not willfully lied to people. It is quite clear that I withheld information."

McFarlane is alone among the Iran-contra defendants in expressing at least some contrition for his role in the scandal. He was recently sentenced at his own trial to two years probation, \$20,000 in fines and 200 hours of community service as part of a deal that set him up to help North's prosecutors.

He attempted suicide in February 1987 and said later that he felt he had let then-president Reagan down.

Gesell, 78, has wryly asked that the trial be completed in his lifetime, and he sometimes seemed to regard McFarlane's droning testimony as a threat to that goal.

"He has given equivocal and confusing testimony which makes full disclosure desirable, so that his credibility may be fully tested under cross-examination," the judge said, in ruling that some formerly classified identities could be divulged in questioning McFarlane.

"His testimony, among other things, has presented a clear issue as to whether he or whether his subordinate North was officially and knowingly responsible for specific activities attributed to North in the indictment."

Spanish Basques march for peace

BILBAO (R) — Tens of thousands of Spanish Basques marched through Bilbao in a silent peace plea to separatist guerrillas who have killed more than 600 people in a fight for independence.

Police said more than 200,000 people took part in the march Saturday to persuade the separatist group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) to extend indefinitely a two-month truce in its 21-year campaign.

"Asking for peace in the Basque country is telling ETA not to turn deaf ears any more to the clamour of society... to heed the verdict of the overwhelming majority," Jose Antonio Ardanza, president of the Basque regional government, told the crowd.

Ardanza, speaking as white doves were released, said ETA should lay down arms definitively.

ly. "We don't want winners or losers, we want only peace."

Supporters of ETA, who plan a rival rally on Easter day when the truce expires, did not respond immediately to the Bilbao march, which was described by residents as the largest seen in this north-western region of 2.2 million people.

Politicians said the march may have coincided with a final round of secret talks in Algiers between ETA and Spanish government envoys before the guerrillas take a decision on the ceasefire.

Xabier Arzallus, head of the ruling Basque Nationalist Party, told reporters the problem was how to allow the guerrillas a dignified way out.

ETA has said an extension of the truce depends on the Madrid government agreeing to discuss political demands.



Irantzu Mugeta, 20, a Basque university student appeared at a news conference in Bilbao, Spain, after she was attacked Monday by two men and a woman who beat her and carved the letters GAL into her face. GAL stands for Anti-terrorist Liberation Group, an organisation which claimed to have killed 23 Basques living in France to avenge attacks by the Basque separatist group ETA

COLUMN

'Being fat can be fun'

LONDON (R) — Fat women with a combined weight of over 11,000 kilograms gathered Saturday for Britain's first conference for the overweight and declared: "Being fat can be fun."

"Fat women are the butt of all the jokes. We are a group of fat women aiming to challenge fat oppression," said Ruth Tedder of the London Women's Fat Group. The 150 women attending the closed day-long conference were urged to throw away their diet sheets, lock up their scales and enjoy themselves. "I have been fat and dieting since I was 11 and, after 20 years, I have decided to enjoy myself," said Tedder, who weighs in at 90 kilograms.

That scandalous Italian skirt

ROME (ANSA) — In 1575 Pope Gregory XIII decreed a jubilee that was to bring a great number of pilgrims to Rome. The women from Nettuno went to Rome like the good Christians they had become. But their arrival created an unexpected scandal. Their blouses were open on the chest, their bosoms, barely covered by a layer of very thin laces that from the neck came down to the nipples. That was not enough and on those blouses the Nettuno women wore a red skirt that came down to their knees. Exposing their legs encased in beautifully made boots. On the waist, they wore a gold and silver belt, with gold and silver bells hanging from it, so that a constant music accompanied every step. On their hair the women wore turbans of different colours, each colour having a precise meaning — red meant that the woman was married, green that she wasn't, purple that she was a widow. The Pope was shocked, by this apparel, those costumes were "dangerous to modesty" he said and ordered the women from Nettuno to lengthen their skirts and cover their bosoms.

\$4 million heist

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Seven armed robbers escaped with diamonds worth 10 million rand (\$4 million) after a daring daylight raid on a Johannesburg gem cutting centre Sunday, police said. The robbers burst into the cutting centre near downtown Johannesburg in the afternoon, ordered 14 diamond cutters to lie on the floor and forced the manager at gunpoint to open the vaults. Police said the robbers emptied the vaults and locked the diamond cutters inside a workshop before escaping in a car.

Windy day ends washer's career

HOUSTON (AP) — A windy first day on the job may have brought a quick end to the career of a high-rise window washer, who froze with fear and clung to a pillar on the sixth floor before being rescued. Ray Trevino had lowered himself from the roof of the 22-story Marriott hotel at Texas Medical centre Monday, but lost his confidence when gusts blew him around in his chair. "I just got too windy," Trevino said. "It's really scary being way up there when it's windy, and you're just hanging onto a rope." Trevino held onto the edge of the building for about 45 minutes before he was rescued by firefighter Randy Fisher, who reached him by using a 30.5-metre ladder. "I said, 'Ray, I'm as scared as you are now, so let's just take this thing slow, one step at a time,'" Fisher said. "He didn't say a whole lot of anything." Trevino said he did not know if he would resume his window-washing career.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Karachi leaders call for calm

KARACHI (R) — Ethnic leaders in Karachi appealed Monday for an end to communal riots in Pakistan's biggest city which have killed at least 29 people in 10 days. In separate appeals, leaders of Pashtuns from the north-west, Punjabis from central Pakistan and Mobajir immigrants urged their communities to shun violence and restore calm. "Every Pakistani wants peace," Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a former Punjab governor, told reporters when he arrived in Karachi for talks with ethnic leaders. Pashtun leader Ghulam Sarwar Awan and Altaf Hussain, representing the Mobajir migrants who came to Pakistan from other parts of former British India after partition in 1947, also spoke out for an end to the bloodshed.

S. Africans take refuge

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four South African detainees have taken refuge in the West German embassy in Pretoria, anti-apartheid activist sources said Monday. A spokesman at the embassy refused all comment. The sources said the four, all held without trial under South Africa's state of emergency regulations, had escaped from a hospital in Pretoria and gone to the embassy. The sources said the four had taken part in a recent mass hunger strike by political detainees demanding to be charged or released. No details were immediately available.

Ministers meet on Namibia

HARARE (R) — Foreign ministers from the six frontline states of southern Africa met here Monday to decide if they should send representatives to Namibia to monitor U.N.-supervised elections. "One issue we will have to look at is whether we should have a presence in Namibia during the election," Zambian Foreign Minister Luke Mwanashiku said. Last year South Africa, Angola and Cuba signed regional peace accords which included independence for Namibia and the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola. The South African government is due to hand over the territory to the United Nations April 1.

17 Sri Lankans killed

COLOMBO (AP) — Gunmen shot and then backed to death at least 17 Sinhalese men in north-central Sri Lanka, residents said Monday. The residents, insisting on anonymity, said most of the victims were killed Sunday by the unidentified assailants at Tirappane village. Elsewhere, Indian troops shot and killed 12 Tamil rebels in two separate clashes. Sinhalese rebels were blamed for seven other deaths, military officials said. The motive behind the Tirappane killings was not immediately known, but residents said the murders may have links with the death of three policemen killed by Sinhalese radicals in a nearby village earlier Sunday.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	28.3.1989	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	07	45	08	Rain
ATHENS	09	48	21	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	17	63	23	Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	77	34	Clear
BUEENSAIRES	14	57	28	Clear
CAIRO	12	54	28	Clear
CHICAGO	09	15	09	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	43	06	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01	30	12	Clear
GENEVA	01	30	08	Clear
HONG KONG	20	68	21	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	06	43	12	Clear
LONDON	06	43	12	Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	52	26	Clear
MADRID	01	34	14	Clear
MECCA	18	51	31	Clear
MIAMI	20	73	34	Clear
MONTREAL	13	09	03	Clear
MOSCOW	01	34	06	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	17	63	30	Clear
NEW YORK	01	30	06	Clear
PARIS	06	43	06	Clear
ROME	05	41	23	Cloudy
TOKYO	06	43	15	Clear